

# THE LOGGER'S BARK

a magazine

Radio Club of Tacoma



**NEW! Flex 8000 Series!**

**p. 65**

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Changes p. 7**

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Cover photo by:  
Dave W7UUU  
Installation of his  
new SteppIR  
DB18E Yagi.  
Drone view from  
80 feet—May '23  
Adam K7EDX on  
the tower



[www.W7DK.org](http://www.W7DK.org)

Radio Club of Tacoma  
1249 South Washington Street  
Tacoma, WA 98405  
253-759-2040

# W7DK

Open House every Saturday  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Last Saturday every month is  
Swapmeet Day

## Radio Club of Tacoma

Founded 1916

### W7DK 2024 OFFICERS

#### AND COMMITTEE LEADERS

##### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ  
Vice President: Adam Barbera W2NCC  
Secretary: Gary McAdams WG7X  
Treasurer: Steve Dightman AF7YD

##### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Board: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE  
Board: Paul Matney W7PFU  
Board: Doug Schafer AB7DG  
Board: Red Cranefield WB7EC  
Board: Phil Pia K7PIA

##### KEY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Membership: George K7GRS/Mike W7XH  
Salmon Run: George K7GRS/Mike W7XH  
Infotech/IT: Randy WB4SPB  
HF Operations: Phil K7PIA  
Facilities: Adam W2NCC  
Property Mgmt. Red WB7EC  
Museum: Dan KD7SV  
Planning: Manny AD7MA  
POTA: BJ WA7WJR  
General Meeting: Dave W7UUU  
Bark layout & Editor: Dave W7UUU  
Assistant/Copy Editor: Anne N7ANN

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**But don't stop there! Each issue is  
50 or more pages of fun and cool  
stuff to explore! Scroll on!**

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

[loggersbark@gmail.com](mailto:loggersbark@gmail.com)





## W7DK FIELD DAY 2024 WRAP-UP

Well, Field Day 2024 is in the books and I'm just thinking WOW!!! Did I say WOW? We have such a great, talented pool of members that can do so many things.

The transportation crew was composed of many folks who brought their vehicles and trailers. We were able to load up tables, chairs, shelters, antennas, station gear, kitchen equipment, etc. The load-up was fast and smooth, thanks to the many hands involved. When a vehicle or trailer was full, off they went to the Field Day site at the [Western State Hospital](#) grounds.

A truly amazing sight was the assembly and erection of the "rocket launchers," the [AB-577 military surplus towers](#) which held our Yagi antennas. While I was helping with the radio shelter erection, I saw the tower crew working as a team. The next time I looked, they were done and setting up the next tower. Three such towers were used. What you may not know is that they got together before Field Day at Dave, [W7UUU](#)'s place in Burley, were assigned tasks by the team leader, and practiced the safe erection of the towers.

Several people helped with setting up the station shelter which held the radios and electronic equipment. The saying "many hands make light work" is certainly true when setting up the "garage" tents. This year, by placing a darker tarp on top of the shelter, we were able to eliminate the glare on computer and radio screens. While it was warm inside the shelters, having the ends partially or fully open allowed a cooling breeze. Plus, it was certainly nice not having to worry about sideways rain like we had some ten years ago!

Having a covered kitchen and dining area is always nice for everyone so they can rest and refresh while having an excellent meal. It's a good place for everyone to get to know each other, relax, and share operating tips on the different bands. Many thanks to the chuckwagon crew!

Having resonant antennas is very important for making contacts. The antenna crew certainly knew what they were doing

during assembly. Prior preparation ahead of time seems to have made for efficient and correct installations. Congrats to the crew for helping us get on the air without issues. The new passband filters certainly helped, didn't they?!

Kudos to the band captains who set up their stations and ensured everything was operating well. Seats were always filled with operators, and there were plenty of people waiting for their turn. Band captains would help operators and give tips when needed, otherwise just stood aside. The power distribution crew was awesome, making sure the pathways were lit at night, the kitchen and dining area had power and light, and most importantly, there was power for the radios and other equipment in the giant "shack."

We had some lone gurus such as Randy [WB4SPB](#), our IT officer, who made sure that computer interfaces were working and the contact logs were linked and available at all the operating positions. I saw communications and Facebook postings by Deanna [KA7DCX](#), our publicist, so that club members as well as the public knew about our event. Doug [AB7DG](#), as safety officer, helped keep us safe by making sure that weird, crazy things were not done, LOL!

What I'm trying to say is that Field Day doesn't just "happen" without a lot of teamwork and I think the W7DK crew certainly fit the bill. While other clubs may make the event a competition and make more contacts than us, we fit the spirit of Field Day as originally conceived by operating under emergency conditions and being able to assist with communications where needed. I didn't mention names, except for the single-person "committees," as the list would be huge. Everyone that participated made the event a success. Having said that, I congratulate Mike Drorbaugh [W7MKE](#), our Field Day Chairman. Events need leaders and Mike certainly filled that role. Things went well from set-up and operating on-site to tear down and putting things away. It seems that everyone knew what to do or if they didn't, they worked with someone who put them to work on a project that contributed to our success.

-Mike [W7XTZ](#), President



# FROM THE DESK OF THE VP

## Insights from our Vice President

Adam Barbera  
W2NCC

### AN ACCOUNT OF MY FIELD DAY EXPERIENCE

During this year's Field Day, band conditions were awesome. Unlike previous years, personal commitments limited my participation, allowing me to attend only for a few hours late Saturday afternoon and again in the late evening. However, despite this limitation, I had a memorable experience at our annual club's Field Day event.

Upon arriving at the radio tent on Saturday afternoon, I observed all stations in operation, with many club members present. Many new hams were actively working the stations. I engaged with operators between QSOs, appreciating the enthusiasm of these newcomers. Rather than disrupting their work, I hung out with fellow club members while avoiding the operating chairs.

Later, around dinner time, I departed. Returning at 9 pm, I found a quieter scene. There was a core group of station operators, mostly new hams. I operated different bands: 15m digital, 80m phone, and 40m phone. My time operating was brief, as I wanted to share the opportunity with others.

However, the unexpected highlight occurred after midnight. Mike W7XH, the club's membership chair, invited me to operate on 20m phone. Despite my assuming the band would be closed, I settled into the chair, put the headset on, and pressed the F1 key to start the automated CQ recording. To my

surprise, a station responded to my CQ after only a few minutes. I sprang to my feet, pressing the escape key to halt the automated CQ voice player, then I snatched the boom mic, adjusting its position while fumbling for the foot switch with my boot, simultaneously communicating with the station and slamming the station's callsign and exchange into the computer. To my delight, I

successfully logged one, cool! I had assumed the band was closed.

What followed was a relentless 2.5-hour marathon, they just kept coming, sometimes one or two at a time, other times in small pileups. I fell into a rhythm, ending each QSO with QRZ? (anyone else calling me?) and awaiting the next station's callsign.

Managing the small pileups

was exhilarating. Around 3 a.m., the band quieted down, and I was ready to head home.

This experience was truly awesome, and I'm immensely grateful for the propagation during this year's Field Day! Despite never being a contester, my perspective on contesting has shifted. No doubt, Field Day is more than a mere communication exercise. This is my first experience with the 20m band open after midnight. This wonderful experience earned a spot in the fun record book!

Until next month, 73

-Adam W2NCC, Vice President



Photo by KA7MWF

VP Adam W2NCC at the 20m position, 3:00 AM PDT



# SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary **WG7X**



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT going into Fall 2024

So, as we go into fall this year, it's time to think about what we're going to do with the radio hobby, both at the club and at home. Sunspot cycle 25 has been spotty, to say the least; with ups and downs in propagation varying with sometimes no discernable pattern.

That said, there have been some very interesting DX-peditions this year, most notable are, so far, the TT8\*\* Chad and the FT4GL Glorioso Islands activations. Big pile-ups, lots of folks trying their best to get that contact. Hopefully, some of us at the Radio Club of Tacoma managed a contact or two.

Those were the two big ones so far and there were a few smaller, but no less important DX-peditions also earlier this year: Easter Island, Austral Islands, Conway Reef, a whole slew of other islands this year. Almost makes you want to go out into the ocean somewhere, doesn't it?

Most of us will not have the chance to travel to a DX location, but at least we can try to work them from here, right?

To that end, your HF committee has been working to improve our three major stations and so far, we've done a good job, but at the

same time, we have had help from our old friend PJ Hicks, **N7PH**. PJ passed this year and gifted us with a lot of very nice equipment, which we are already using in the two newest HF stations. Also, a big thanks goes out to Adam **W2NCC** for going up and beyond to get us the new IC-7610 in the shack. The final piece of the pie is a Palstar amp that the committee decided to get and apparently it is a very popular item, so much so that our delivery has been pushed back a couple of times. We have decided to give the manufacturer one more chance to deliver this amp to use before we make an alternative choice. It's a good amp, so we'll wait a bit more...

We, the HF committee, invite anyone who wants to use the stations to just come up and we will show you how to operate this fine equipment. We also want to try a bit more contest activity at RCT, so if you're interested, just let us know. All that fine stuff is up there just waiting for you!

HF committee members: Phil **K7PIA**, Al **N7OMS**, Bob **AD7LJ**, Dan **KD7SV** and Gary **WG7X**.

-Gary **WG7X**







ONE OF THE LONG-HELD TRADITIONS of the Radio Club of Tacoma that I have noticed slipping into decline of late is the Tuesday Night Repeater Net. For many years, this was a very popular activity every week, with as many as 35 or more check-ins. I still have my logs from having been one of the Net Control Stations (NCS) from 2014 onward, as well as those from NCS Anne **N7ANN**. One of those logs shows a whopping 38 check-ins! Around 2016, I added a Roundtable to the session on my night to be NCS (a tradition continued to this day by NCS Chris **N7CPM**).

During Covid, the net became very popular, and additional nets were even added (the *legendary* Saturday Donut Eater's Net hosted by Gary **WG7X** stands out in memory!). But post-Covid, when the world opened back up, the net started to slide into decline. I'm not sure why that would be, but it's certainly a fact. Recent nets over the past few months have had as few as six check-ins (not counting the NCS). It seems that as the numbers dwindled, many users thought, "Well, no one is really checking in anymore, so I won't bother either." And I've been guilty of that charge as well. My shack is external to the house, and I'd just decide to stay warm in the house instead of traipsing out in the weather to fire up the shack just for an eight-minute net, then shut it all back down to go in the house.

So I'm here to say I fully commit to returning as a regular on the Tuesday Night Net, and I heartily invite everyone who can hit the repeater to follow suit and see if we can get our net attendance back up to snuff! The purpose of the net was aptly demonstrated during the pandemic: keeping our members in touch, talking, and checking up on our collective health and welfare. That's why we do it—so that it's second nature when we face a group challenge as we all did in 2020 and 2021. It's vital we all maintain that link for when bad stuff happens as it did back then.



The net is every Tuesday at 7:30 PM on the main club repeater, 147.280, with a PL tone of 103.5. And a big shoutout of support to our NCS folks: Chris **N7CPM**,

Scott **KA7IOX**, Phil **K7PIA**, and Deanna **KA7DCX**. You may read all about the net [at this link](#). Right now, NCS Manager Chris is looking for a "5th Tuesday" NCS... maybe that could be you?! It's a fun and easy job—and starting out on the 5th Tuesday spot is a great way to break in...

I'll look forward to hearing you on the net soon! Until next month, 73.

-Dave **W7UUU**





## IMPORTANT INFORMATION—PLEASE READ!

As many in the club know, I have been a Microsoft Power User for 30 years, and use Microsoft Publisher 365 to create *The Logger's Bark* magazine and newsletter. But I just very recently learned that Microsoft is *abandoning Publisher*. **Starting this year, 2024, new subscribers to Office 365 will no longer even see Publisher included.** And those *currently* using it (me!) were apparently alerted in February that on October 13, 2026, Publisher (as it exists in Office 365) will just disappear! That's right—it will be *gone*. Since Office 365 is a subscription and not “desktop software”, they can do that.

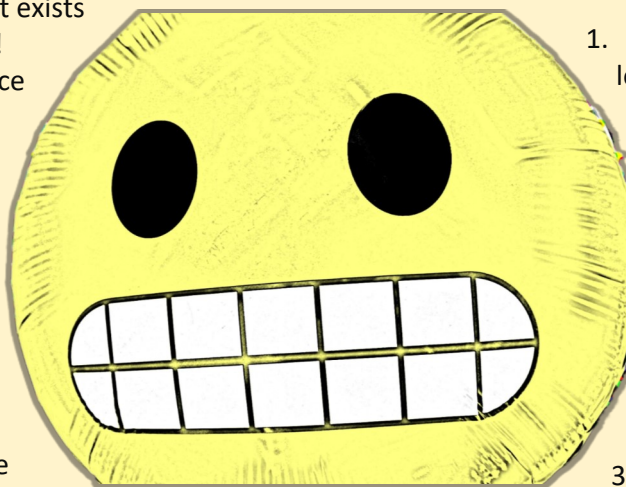
And I also very recently (and painfully) learned they in fact are *already starting to abandon Publisher 365*. To wit, the critical function called “Export to PDF” is now broken for large complex documents like *The Bark*. During an export, it will either drastically alter graphical elements, or just outright fail to complete.

This started on Sunday July 28th, as I was nearing completion of this issue, and gearing up for a day-long proofreading session with Anne N7ANN. The export feature just stopped working. I tried every computer (all are high-end and powerful) to no avail—I was dead in the water at that point.

I even tried exporting *Bark* issues from the past—and no longer will any of them convert to PDF. Even the most recent issue, July, won't convert. Nor June, or any other month. Being that Publisher in Office 365 is a “service” and largely “in the cloud”, they have clearly crippled this function for complex documents like this (simpler and smaller docs will convert fine—for now).

Today I had club member and Software Engineer Stephen AD7AB over, with his insanely powerful laptop, and we in fact confirmed: *Microsoft has broken the PDF export function of Publisher in Office 365!*

So with just a few days before publication, this threw me into a tail-spin. I quickly learned that I could revert to an earlier version of DVD-based Publisher that's not cloud-based: Publisher 2010. However, there are some annoying aspects to that. More astute readers of *The Bark* will quickly notice the downgrades in this issue that are a result:



1. Images and objects can no longer support shadows. They will now appear as gray outlines, rather than the soft gradations of shadow as before
2. Text no longer will have “glow” and shadow effects. This affects headers in many cases—they don't look as nice as they did before.
3. I had to delete several monthly articles as the graphical content was simply too much for the 2010 edition. I will bring them back next month, but need time to recraft those pages “old school” style.
4. Page backgrounds have much more basic rules in 2010 Publisher, so many of the more textured backgrounds had to be removed. A few remain—but some of my faves had to be ditched.

As I said, probably only a few will notice much difference but it really bugs me they did this. Microsoft has said there will be no replacement for Publisher, so the rest of *The Bark's* life will live within the lesser software. But I'll keep doing my best with what I have.

-Dave W7UUU, Editor





## **SALMON RUN IS FAST APPROACHING!**

Greetings everyone. Our Washington State QSO party, known as “Salmon Run,” is approaching quickly. For those who are new and might not know, several years ago, a fundraiser was established to coincide with Salmon Run. Club members would pledge an amount per county or

If you have not yet participated in our annual fundraiser, I encourage you to join us. Last year, we had about 12 operators on two stations. Last year, we achieved a triple sweep: all state counties, all 50 states, and all provinces and territories in Canada. We topped that with a half dozen DX stations. Financially, we did very well last year with about 120 donors. Donations, large



for a clean sweep of all 39 Washington state counties. Some members pledged a one-time gift amount. In our first-ever Salmon Run fundraiser, we raised funds to reroof our clubhouse. Over the years, we have raised thousands of dollars to benefit the club and its members.

We begin Salmon Run donations in August and will collect funds through the end of the year. This year, we are working hard to implement an online Salmon Run pledge form that, when submitted, will be sent as a PDF to membership. We also expect to have an operational PayPal or Venmo payment option, as checks are a bit outdated. I know we are still behind the curve.

Spoiler alert! We have also created an online membership form, and by the time this goes to print, we hope our online payment system will be complete. Of course, club badges, history booklets, and ARRL applications will come sometime before December, all with an online payment option.

or small, all benefit the club. Perhaps this year, a portion of the funds can help offset the cost of re-galvanizing our tower.

Here are a few more updates on what membership has been doing. Club members are receiving birthday cards in their birthday month. Additionally, we are sending postcards to new and upgraded hams, inviting them to our weekly open house. As always, meet, greet, and give a tour to our visitors! Yes, that is everyone's job! Also, all club members should have received a Radio Club of Tacoma membership certificate. Thank you for being a part of The Radio Club of Tacoma.

If you have any ideas to share with membership, send an email to [membership@w7dk.org](mailto:membership@w7dk.org).

-Mike **W7XH**







## MY PERSPECTIVE ON 2024 FIELD DAY

By Mike **W7MKE**

I accepted the opportunity to manage the Radio Club's this year's Field Day and it was my first time doing this for the club. It was not nearly as difficult as I envisioned, as I had lots of help.

The previous Field Day Manager, Adam Barbera **W2NCC**, gifted me with a number of spreadsheets that entailed all of the tasks that would be needed to put the event

together and these were most helpful. Other earlier Field Day Managers: Al Ferguson **N7OMS**, Nick Winter **K7MO**, Bob Purdom **AD7LJ** and others also offered valuable insight and technical assistance toward organizing this event. In particular, the idea to assign station managers early and

assign them the tasks of assembling and familiarizing themselves with the transceivers their station would use. This was most helpful and took a lot off of my plate.

Our acquisition of several radios from the estate of PJ Hicks **N7PH** (SK) allowed us to not have to disassemble radios in the clubhouse and we could

give the Station Managers radios to take home and become familiar with. Of course, Randy Myers **WB4SPB** was integral in helping those managers install club software on their computers, and in assisting where needed to help managers fully know how to operate the radios.

Randy once again set up the logging network and took care of assembling and checking the log for submittal. The club uses N3FJP logging software for most logging.



2024 FD Manager Mike Drorbaugh **W7MKE**

It was also most helpful to have experienced people in charge of various activities during the setup and operation of Field Day. Our club is now not as serious a contest club for Field Day as we once were and it is much more a bonding and social event with radios: *a picnic with radios!*

We have long had a potluck along with Field Day for feeding the setup crew, station operators and visitors. Friday setup saw our veteran kitchen crew of Paul Matney **W7PFU** and Red Cranefield **WB7EC** ordering pizza for the Friday lunch & dinner. Saturday lunch the crew were served soup and sandwiches, and Saturday evening was the potluck with the club supplying fried chicken and excellent





## W7DK FIELD DAY 2024

### Looking Back: FD Manager's Report

barbecue ribs.

Sunday morning the cooks supplied a "loggers breakfast" complete with waffles, omelets or scrambled eggs, sausages and hashbrowns.

Fortunately, the Western Washington weather

We had previously had a training day out in Burley at Dave **W7UUU**'s place on the AB-577 setup so the crew did a great job of safely getting the towers ready while the Yagis were being assembled.

Dan Vacanti **KD7SV** did double duty as a 80 & 15M station manager, and ran the rocket launcher crew.



Photo by Mike W7MKE

cooperated, and we had excellent conditions more or less throughout the event, although the wind was a bit cool Saturday evening.

Setup went off as well as can be expected on Friday, with load-out from the club beginning about 09:00. Around 15 or 20 members showed up to help. We arrived at Western State to find that they had prepared the field by mowing it. So setup was able to begin promptly at 11:00 where the main tasks were: 3 [AB-577 "rocket launcher" towers](#) with assembled Yagi antennas as follows: 5 elements on 10, 5 elements on 15, and 3 elements on 20.

So two crews with parallel jobs got the job done very efficiently. Thanks to Steve Dightman **AF7YD**'s Yagi crew who had previously learned how to assemble our antennas during their own practice day.

Most large jobs were complete by about 3PM on Friday. Last minute discoveries of a defective Flex 6400M for our 40M station and the need for an additional computer monitor, Flex control and powered speaker for the 80M station sent me back to the clubhouse and to my home for those items.





In addition to the Yagis on the towers, we used a wire 3-element 40-meter Yagi as well as a 40m dipole. The combined Yagi & dipole antenna works very well as we can use the tall Douglas Fir trees on the site to get the antenna up pretty high. The dipole's main direction is north—south while the Yagi points just a bit south-of-east. This year I estimated the 40m Yagi was up 60-70'.

For the 80-meter band we used a cage dipole up 60-70 feet as well, with main lobes running east to west. The trees used are well over 100' and we used an air cannon to launch lines into the trees—an experience all by itself!

We used a large 20 x 30' tent for our stations and Doug Reynolds **K7FDR** once again this year acted as the supervisor to get that done. One issue that we addressed this year that seemed to work well was to use a large silver tarp over the top and down the sidewalls of the tent to reduce light in the tent. In years past it was very difficult to see radio screens and computer monitors with so much daylight in the tent. The addition of the silver tarp solved that issue nicely as screens and controls were easily viewable this year.

All considered, the 2024 Field Day accomplished its main goal of providing opportunities for old and new operators alike to get on the air. We used SSB phone, CW and FT8 digital at all stations except for the 40m station where only phone was used.

We had a couple of bonus stations this year, one was EmComm where Doug Schafer **AB7DG** used his [VARA / Winlink software](#) and connected via 2-meters to our local EmComm repeater to send messages. Doug also served as our Safety Manager and thankfully we completed Field Day without any incidents.

Wade Marshall **W7ITL** managed to setup a portable 6m station and made a few FT8 contacts.

I'll take some credit for finding capable people early-on to manage the bigger jobs. Station Managers, Kitchen Crew, Tent Crew, Antenna Crew, Rocket Launcher Crew, and Air Cannon Crew. All of the station managers were outstanding in getting their portion of Field Day up and ready and our Field Day would not have been nearly as successful without their efforts.

This year we had combined 51 active and inactive Radio Club members show up and a total of 61 different people signed our log and I'm pretty sure there were several others who did not get registered in the log.

Thanks to all the managers and members who helped make this a fun, safe and productive 2024 Field Day.

-Mike Drorbaugh **W7MKE**, FD Manager 2024

# HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS

## Amateur radio events from around the world



W7UUU

### Amateur Radio Participates in World's Largest Naval Exercise

07/21/2024

“Partners: Integrated and Prepared” is the theme for Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024, the world’s largest international military maritime exercise, which began June 27, and will come to a close on August 1. Conducted from Joint Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam, Oahu, Hawaii, the exercise encompasses many islands in the Hawaiian chain.

The event included 29 nations, 40 surface ships, three submarines, 14 national land forces, over 150 aircraft, and more than 25,000 personnel, including amateur radio operators working with health care facilities.

The amateur radio portion of the exercise has been completed. ARRL Assistant Section Manager and State Government Liaison Michael Miller, KH6ML, said 36 amateur radio operators from Hawaii volunteered to demonstrate the value of amateur radio in emergency preparedness and response.

“It turned out very good,” said Miller. “Some of hospitals, staff and administrators involved had their first experience with amateur radio. The operators were able to blend their skills using public service radios, satellite phones, as well as

amateur radio.”

Miller pointed out that hospitals on the smaller islands don’t usually have a fulltime communications officer so working with amateur radio gives them experience for future emergencies. The amateurs worked with Health Comm Hawaii which provides amateur radio communications to health care associations in Hawaii during emergencies and disasters.

“Health Comm Hawaii really needs 100 more operators for backup and to build skill sets through monthly exercises,” Miller added.

Vice Adm. John Wade, commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet and RIMPAC 2024 Combined Task Force (CTF) commander, said the Rim of the Pacific exercise has grown over the years to be the world’s largest and premier joint combined maritime training opportunity. “The exercise’s purpose is to build relationships, to enhance interoperability and proficiency and, ultimately, contribute to the peace and stability in the vitally-important Indo-Pacific region.”

Many of the volunteers participating in RIMPAC 2024 are also members of other vital emergency communication groups, such as Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). -web





# ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

**ARRL LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD** is back online. As most of the ham world was aware, and as reported in the July Logger's Bark, a cyber attack took down the ARRL LoTW system on May 15th. After weeks of painstaking cleansing of the malware infection, the system was restored on July 2, 2024 and is rapidly getting back up to full operation. Thanks to all at ARRL for putting in the effort to restore this important system. What follows is the latest announcement.

■ -editor

From [www.ARRL.org](http://www.ARRL.org)

*Update July 2, 2024*

Effective 12:00pm ET / 16:00 UTC we will be returning [Logbook of The World® \(LoTW®\)](https://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world) to service.

As work progressed on the network, some users encountered LoTW opening briefly during which some 6600 logs were uploaded. The logs were not processed until this weekend as we tested that the interfaces to LoTW were functioning properly.

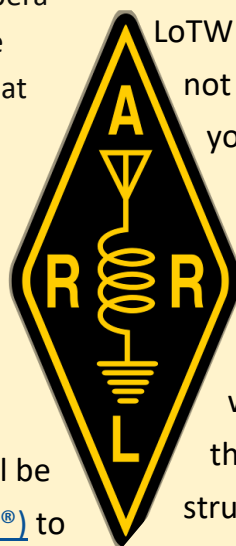
We are taking steps to help manage what will likely be a huge influx of logs. We are requesting that if you have large uploads, per-

haps from contests or from a DXpedition, please wait a week or two before uploading to give LoTW a chance to catch up. We have also implemented a process to reject logs with excessive duplicates. Please do not upload your entire log to "ensure" your contacts are in LoTW as they will be rejected. Lastly, please do not call ARRL Headquarters to report issues you are having with LoTW. You can contact support at [LoTW-help@arrl.org](mailto:LoTW-help@arrl.org).

Through the end of the year, you may experience planned times when LoTW will be unavailable. We have been using this time to evaluate operational and infrastructure improvements we would like to make to LoTW. Those times will be announced.

We appreciate your patience as we worked through the challenges keeping LoTW from returning to service. We know the importance of LoTW to our members, and to the tens of thousands of LoTW users who are not ARRL members. LoTW, just behind *QST*, is our second most popular ARRL benefit.

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# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By W7UUU



VP Adam Barbera W2NCC

**Adam has been a very active member of W7DK for 9 years, having joined in 2015. He's served as a BOD member for several terms, Field Day manager, Groups.IO coordinator, and currently, Vice President, and done HUGE amounts of work on our club facilities. He was our Doc Spike award recipient for 2018 and is an instrumental member of the club these days.**





Randy Prough, **AC0WM** of Ardmore Oklahoma was the first to correctly report the July Hidden Word—Nichrome—on Page 106! So he won the set of QRZ stickers! Thanks Randy for reading The Bark and for taking the time to write in to us!

### Errata from Previous Issue

Errata from the July issue as reported by our readers. It's nice to know it's just a few items, but apologies to all who noticed the errors and those they affected.

Page 64, bottom right, "Photos this page provided by" - W7UUU was omitted from the end

Page 72, top right photo caption, radio is mis-captioned as an Elecraft KX3 when in fact it is an Elecraft K3.

Page 91, "Safety Practices", item #3 in the list: Should read "in series rather than "in parallel".



**THIS MONTH'S MAILBOX** was pretty empty—no emails from the actual membership (other than a couple guesses to the Mystery Member) unfortunately but lots of comments from our QRZ audience as usual...

#### From QRZ,

Field Day ... **on the cover**-- a week after the event!

Amazing....!

Chip—**W1YW** (famous inventor of the Fractal Antenna!)

#### From QRZ,

Always better than QST IMO. Keep up the good work

Gavin—**KQ4GUI**

#### From QRZ,

Awesome work, Dave. A newsletter that rivals the industry magazines is impressive.

Steve—**KO4TXV**

#### From QRZ,

How you get all this written up in a month amazes me.

Brilliant!

Gordon—**ZL3ZX**  
New Zealand

#### From QRZ,

Enjoying the magazine—very nice! And a lot of work went into it!

Franz—**N3HFS**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



*L>R: Steve **AF7YD**, Ellen **AI7FP**, and Scott **KA7IOX** catch up on things in the Lou Room on June 29th*



*Ron **KD7QKU** stopped by the clubhouse to pay a visit and have a Saturday breakfast with the gang*



*Walt **WA7SDY** selling his wares as usual on the Last Saturday Swap Meet at the clubhouse on June 29th*



*Scott **KF7ZFL** enjoys his cup O'Joe out on the front porch on a beautiful sunny Saturday morning*

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Lloyd **AG7CX** gearing up to work with the Icom IC-7610 station in the main HF room



Nolan **KG7BM** hanging out in the "Taylor Swift" chair (see [April 2024](#) issue) with David **AC7KP**



Randy **WB4SPB** works with Bryan **K17HLV** setting up his Xiegu G90 with a switching power supply



President Mike **W7XTZ** firing up the Classroom computer

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



*Pete **KC7YDW** doing some organizing in the attic museum storage space*



*Many members may not even know all the goodies hidden away for the museum in the attic!*



*Charles **AE7PC** paid a visit to the W7OS Museum on June 29th*



*Always a great group in the Lou Room on any given Saturday at the Clubhouse*

**Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!**

*All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU***



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Out-of-state member Max, **KK7HAY**, helps load yard waste into the truck on "Work Party" day at the clubhouse July 27th



Bob **K7MXE** looks on as Max and Adam **W2NCC** load up Dave **W7UUU**'s truck before heading to the dump



ARRL WWA Section Manager Bob **AD7LJ** stopped by to check out the mini-swap and visit with the gang



Warren **NG7G** gives us a 'thumbs up' on July 27th

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Our one "safety issue" for the day—Bob **K7MXE** took one for the team in helping load tree limbs... fortunately he'll survive to load another truck another day!



Once again, on July 27th, a table full of goodies to sell at the Last Saturday mini-swap is Walt, **WA7SDY**



Another always—friendly face at the mini-swap is Jeff **KB7QAG**



And the gang's all here! Well, a part of the gang, hanging out in the Lou room on a beautiful summer Saturday morning at the end of July!

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK

Richard Watson	KD4VOM
Scott Smith	KF7ZFL
Curtis Evers	KJ7GFY
Richard Heasty	KK7VH
Ralph Spaulding	NU7G
Warren McPherson	KF7UFR
Douglas Schafer	AB7DG
Joseph Lester	K7ZG
Robert Brown	KG7QXK
Vincent Stoneking	KD7RAE
Michael Grubiak	KJ7CFF
Erick Jenkins	K7APO
Jack Hegseth	K7DBU
Aaron Grenlund	KJ7CEZ
George Lightner	KD7QBE
John Kalina	WA7VDI
Russell Donahue	KC7EKI
Joe Winkler	KF7PXB
Elias Nichols	KK7KKT
Robert Crelling	N7QOZ
Rodd Roderick	KI7CKS
Joyce Nelson	KK7LMM
David Brooks	N7HT
Richard Heggen	KF7TEW
Charles Eyres	K7CBE
Steven Blacksten	AD7VL
Matthew Bradshaw	KK7NFP
Mike Hancock	AJ7MH

August  
Birthdays!!



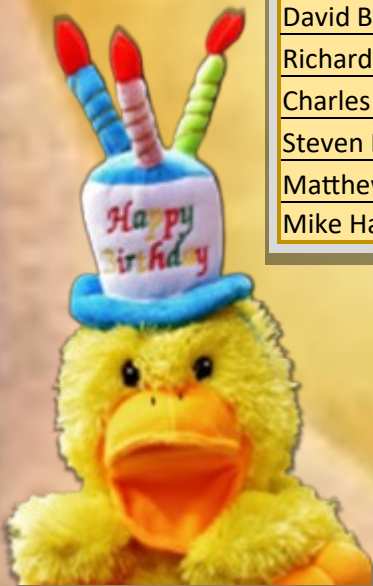
Dave **W7UUU** visits with Manny **AD7MA**  
on the back porch of the clubhouse



L > R: Lloyd **AG7CX**, Stephen **AD7AB**, and  
Max **KK7HAY** chatting it up on July 27th

Top photo by Anne **N7ANN**

Bottom photo by Dave **W7UUU**





# W7DK TOWER UPDATES!

## Regalvanizing & Maintenance



ON THURSDAY JULY 25<sup>th</sup>, a crew of three amazing tower guys from [Harrington Aerial](#) (formerly Harrington Tower Services) converged on the clubhouse to provide vital maintenance work on the club's nearly 50-year-old 80-foot tower.

Prep work was done in previous weeks, and today was the day to get down to re-galvanizing the entire structure for hopefully another decade or two of trouble-free service. ■ -editor



*Trent (in yellow) and Enrique gear up to climb the tower and join Daniel who is already at the top*



*Trent (yellow), Daniel (in gray) and Enrique set to work applying cold galvanizing to the tower starting from the top down. Drone photo from 80 feet.*

All photos this page provided by

Dave W7UUU



# W7DK TOWER UPDATES!

## Regalvanizing & Maintenance

W7UUU



All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**

Enrique mixing cold-galvanizing paint and later waves to  
the Drone camera at 80 feet above the parking lot





# W7DK TOWER UPDATES!

## Regalvanizing & Maintenance

W7UUU



All photos this page provided by

Paul **N7OSS**





# THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

Highlighted photos from the club's past

*Researched & Compiled by the Editor*



Photo:



The large crowd waiting to "bust the gates" to be let in to the W7DK Ham Fest at the Sportsman's Club in Spanaway, WA site back in July 1970



Warren Green **W7JY** of the QCWA arranges museum pieces at a W7DK Event ca. 1970



Novice CW testing... stress on young faces evident!!  
ca. 1970, unknown W7DK event




# THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Always check the W7DK website for latest news



W7DK

July		August, 2024				September	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
31 July	July	July	July	1	2	3	<a href="#">Open House 10-2</a>
4 <a href="#">W7DK Summer Picnic—Shelter 1 Ft. Steilacoom Park</a> <a href="#">10m Social Net</a>	5 <a href="#">Slow Speed CW Net</a>	6 <a href="#">Tuesday Nite Net</a> w/Round Table	7 07:00pm Board meeting	8	9	10 01:00pm General meeting ...	<a href="#">Open House 10-2</a>
11 <a href="#">10m Social Net</a>	12 <a href="#">Slow Speed CW Net</a>	13 07:00pm VE License Exam ... <a href="#">Tuesday Nite Net</a>	14	15	16	17	<a href="#">Open House 10-2</a>
18 <a href="#">10m Social Net</a>	19 <a href="#">Slow Speed CW Net</a>	20 <a href="#">Tuesday Nite Net</a>	21		23	24	<a href="#">Open House 10-2</a>
25 <a href="#">10m Social Net</a>	26 <a href="#">Slow Speed CW Net</a>	27 <a href="#">Tuesday Nite Net</a>	28 <a href="#">4th Weds. Activity</a>		30	31 <a href="#">Last Saturday hotdogs and Mini Swap Meet</a>	

## Did you know?

The Romans renamed the month [Sextilis](#) to Augustus in honor of the first Roman emperor, [Augustus Caesar](#) in the year 8 AD.

Augustus chose Sextilis for his month due to numerous important events that took place in his life at that time: conquest of Egypt, and the resulting defeat of Mark Antony and Cleopatra







It's that time!

# W7DK Summer Picnic 2024!

Sunday August 4th 10-3  
Fort Steilacoom Park  
8714 87th Ave. SW  
Lakewood, WA 98498  
Shelter #1

Yes indeed! It's that time of year again... the 2024 W7DK Summer Picnic will be held on the first Sunday of August, in the same location we have used for the last few years.

Just enter the park from the North, off Steilacoom Blvd. SW (right across from Western State Hospital). Turn right into the park on Dresden Ln. SW. Follow the road around and you'll see a large kids play area. You can park there in the large lot, or continue on around on the road, going past the red barns—there's an access road to the rear parking lot behind the picnic grounds.

As always, the Club will provide burgers, hotdogs, and beverages. Please bring a potluck dish of your choice.

And of course, no alcohol, smoking, or vaping is allowed anywhere inside the park.

Hopefully the weather will favor us this time—the last few years it's been chilly and gray. Bring a sweater just in case! See you there!

■ -editor



Picnic Shelter #1



Chef Paul W7PFU



Click either photo or the map for a Google Maps view



# RCT Bulletin Board

Posted notes and other important stuff

Here's a **useful tip** when reading the Bark: if you want to view a link, "right click" > "Open link in new window" - that way you won't lose your place in the Bark!

IT'S PICNIC TIME! Sunday August 4th  
**Picnic location** is Shelter #1 at  
Fort Steilacoom (same as years past)  
8717 87th Avenue SW in Lakewood  
Date is **SUNDAY AUGUST 4th 10 to 4**

Last Month's Mystery Member: Anne  
Ellison **N7ANN**  
Thanks for all  
the great guesses!



Last Month's Hidden Word: **Nichrome**  
It was hidden in the "Closing Remarks"  
page of the July Bark! See if you  
can find this month's Hidden Word and  
win some QRZ stickers mailed directly  
to you!







**HUGE THANKS TO** Mr. Bruce Horn, **WA7BNM** for publishing his "[Contest Calendar](#)" for all these many years... a truly wonderful resource for finding virtually every ham radio contest on Earth that might be happening, in most any mode and most any region in the world. Follow the link to take you to the site, then

sort through the various options to find the specifics of every upcoming event. For now, here's the **WA7BNM** Contest Calendar for the coming month



#### August 2024

+ Batavia FT8 Contest	0000Z, Aug 3 to 2359Z, Aug 4
+ 10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 3 to 2359Z, Aug 4
+ European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 3
+ ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	1800Z, Aug 3 to 1800Z, Aug 4
+ North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 3 to 0559Z, Aug 4
+ SARL HF Phone Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Aug 4
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 6
+ WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 10 to 2359Z, Aug 11
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Aug 10 to 2359Z, Aug 11
+ Maryland-DC QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 10 to 0400Z, Aug 11
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 12
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Aug 15
+ SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Aug 17 to 1600Z, Aug 18
+ ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0900Z, Aug 17 to 0759Z, Aug 19
+ Keyman's Club of Japan Contest	1200Z, Aug 17 to 1200Z, Aug 18
+ North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 17 to 0559Z, Aug 18
+ CVA DX Contest, CW	2100Z, Aug 17 to 2100Z, Aug 18
+ NJQRP Skeeter Hunt	1700Z-2100Z, Aug 18
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	1800Z-2359Z, Aug 18
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Aug 18 to 0100Z, Aug 19
+ Hawaii QSO Party	0400Z, Aug 24 to 0400Z, Aug 26
+ ALARA Contest	0600Z, Aug 24 to 0559Z, Aug 25
+ World Wide Digi DX Contest	1200Z, Aug 24 to 1200Z, Aug 25
+ U.S. Islands QSO Party	1200Z, Aug 24 to 0300Z, Aug 25
+ YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 24 to 1200Z, Aug 25
+ Kansas QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 24 to 2000Z, Aug 25
+ Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 24 to 0400Z, Aug 25
+ CVA DX Contest, SSB	2100Z, Aug 24 to 2100Z, Aug 25
+ SARL HF CW Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Aug 25
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 28
+ Colorado QSO Party	1300Z, Aug 31 to 0400Z, Sep 1





# THE W7DK ELMER BOARD

**Do you have a skill or tool to help new hams?**



**YOU! YES YOU!** Do YOU have a skill you could pass on to new amateur radio operators? Do you possess a skill or piece of gear that you're willing to share with others to fix antenna problems, diagnose noise issues, drive a ground rod, teach Morse, help teach technical topics? If the answer is YES you too could be a W7DK Elmer!! Let any

officer know what your skills are or how you could help new hams get a leg up on the hobby. And if you're one of those already on the list, are there any changes we should be aware of? If so please hit the email address (found bottom of page on the right) and let us know so we can update the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma "Elmer Board".

**NEW HAMS OR MEMBERS:** If you are looking for help, and NEED AN ELMER to help guide your way, use this table! Find the skill you need on the left, then look for an Elmer Provider of that skill on the right and reach out to them. ALL of these Elmer's have committed to helping so please don't hesitate.

## Elmer Board

**Do you need help with some area in ham radio?**

### List of members' areas of interest.

1. Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station planning
5. Antenna and Tower erection
6. Buying new or used equipment
7. Equipment repair
8. Understanding and operating your equipment
9. DX and Contests
10. Club and ARRL activities
11. Using test equipment
12. IRLP, Digital, SDR, ARPS, Winlink, Vara, Satellite
13. Understanding How Electronic Circuits Work

### Name/Call Sign /Phone Number/ Topic

Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4,5,6,7,11)  
 Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1,2,4,6,8)  
 Steve AF7YD 253-988-087(1,2,7,10,11,13)  
 Dave W7UUU 253-820-0890 (2,4,6,9)  
 Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10,12)  
 Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6,8,10)  
 Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1,3,4,12)  
 Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)  
 Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9,10,12)



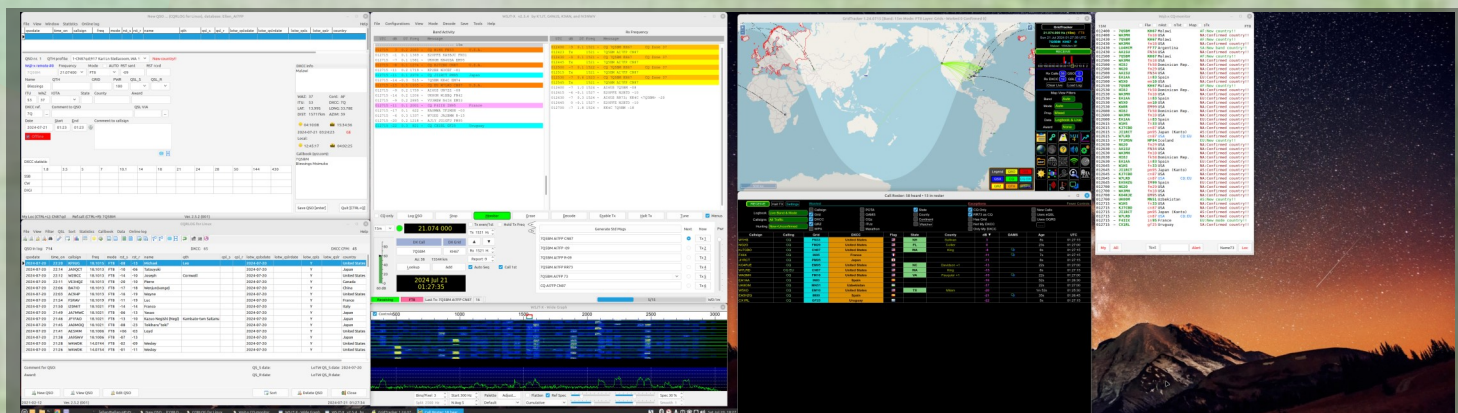


# HAM RADIO & LINUX!

## Ham Radio Hacks for Linux Users



By Ellen AI7FP



### OPERATING FLEXRADIO 6XXX WITH LINUX!

by Ellen Hardin, AI7FP



<https://forum.wfview.org/t/flexradio-support/2986>

I have been using Linux as my main operating system since about 2010. As hams who run Flex rigs know, they aren't Linux friendly out of the box. So when I got my [Flex Radio 6400M](#) I was resigned to operating Windows to operate the Flex. I love my Flex Radio, but I do not love Windows or Mac OS-X as they both collect data and send it "Home to Mama." However, after some investigation, I discovered that it is actually possible to operate the Flex under Linux! It is *not* a fully integrated solution like [SmartSDR](#), but it works and the configuration is really not any more complicated than that required for SmartSDR.

Unfortunately, at the present time, you will need a M model or a Maestro to make this work. I have heard rumors that [wfview](#) (an open source program for controlling Icom radios) is being adapted to support the Flex, but the only info I have found is this post:

For the present, we are limited to M models and the Maestro.

The image above is my setup running on [Linux Mint 21.3](#). This features [CQRLOG](#) controlling the Flex with [CAT](#), integrated with [WSJT-X](#) and [Grid Tracker](#).

The key to making this all work is software written by Andrew Roland. He has created nCAT and nDAX which take the place of CAT and DAX in SmartSDR. They are free and available on GitHub:

<https://github.com/kc2g-flex-tools>

*They can be started on the command line:*

```
nCAT -station FLEX-6400M -listen 127.0.0.1:4532 &
```

```
nDAX -station FLEX-6400M -slice A -daxch 1 -source flex.sliceA.rx -sink flex.sliceA.tx &
```



# HAM RADIO & LINUX!

## Ham Radio Hacks for Linux Users



By Ellen AI7FP

I integrated these into a [bash file](#) and inserted this into my startup programs to start automatically when the computer boots.

It took me a bit of time to figure out the right combination of commands to connect to the Flex. I have documented the procedure step by step and the complete directions can be downloaded by [CLICKING THIS LINK](#).

I then had to figure out how to make CQRLOG work with nCAT to implement CAT control. I found the solution buried in forums.

After this, everything was relatively straightforward.

I configured WSJT-X to use multicast to communicate with CQRLOG thus allowing Grid Tracker to work alongside CQRLOG and WSJT-X.

In order for multicast to work with CQRLOG, the multi-cast address must begin with 239. I used 239.255.0.0 port 2237 and this worked well.

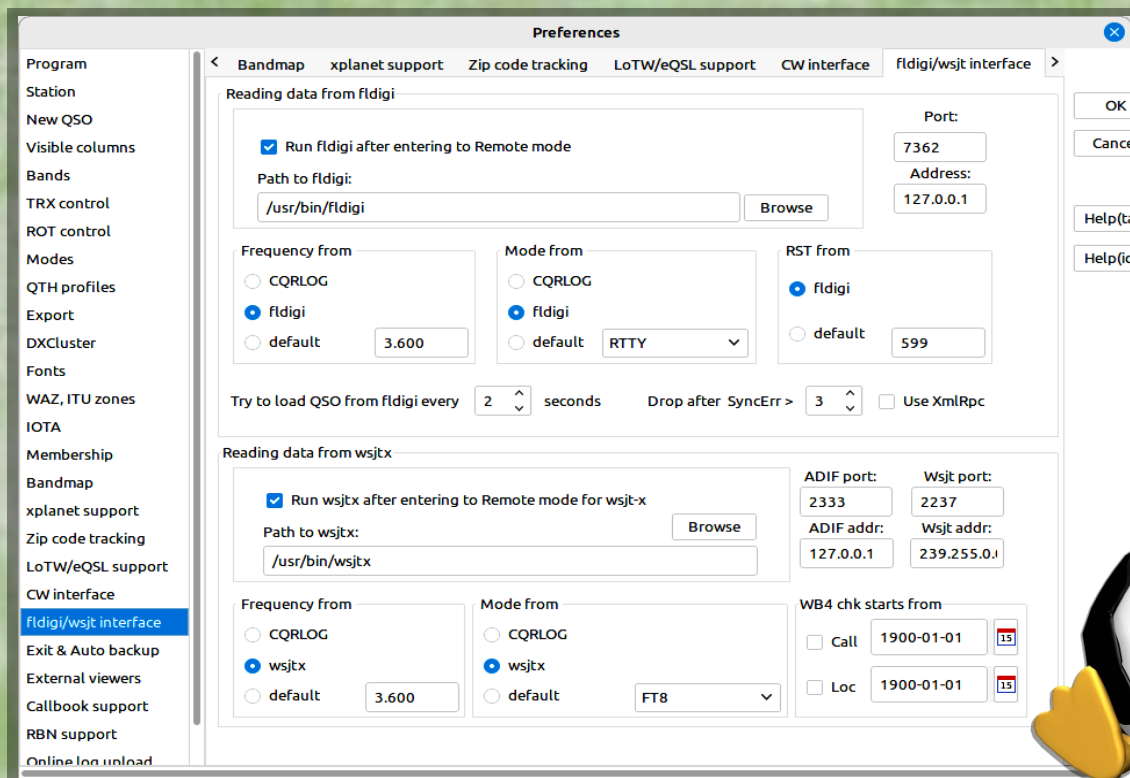
Configuration of WSJT-X and Grid Tracker are similar to use with any other radio.

Configuration of [Fldigi](#) was also relatively straight forward except for the configuration of Pulse Audio. Fortunately, once configured, you can forget about this as the settings are maintained.

I also installed this combination of software on a [Raspberry Pi](#) with 2 GB of memory and it worked without a hitch.

I hope that others interested in using Linux with the Flex can benefit from my experience. Please see the step by step directions in the link above.

73 for now—Ellen AI7FP





# HOME BREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small



**READERS MAY HAVE NOTICED** that Nick Winter, **K7MO**, is featured in this month's Shack of the Month article on [page 64](#). Nick has been a member of the club for a very long time, having joined back in 1970 to become Member #640.

While I was at his house taking his photo, I happened to notice a very clean nicely-built homebrew transmitter sitting on the shelf. That became the topic of an hour-long show and tell, and I thought it would be a nice story for the Homebrew column this month.

Nick earned his Novice ticket in 1967. A ham cousin, Bob Jussila, lent him an unfinished [EF Johnson Viking II transmitter](#) kit, which normally would have been a pretty nice transmitter to start out with! Nick finished the build but alas, one critical part was missing: the all-important panel meter. Nick and Bob jury-rigged in a different meter, but didn't consider the change reliable and the transmitter was deemed "not satisfactory".

Being a new ham, Nick decided to look into building his own transmitter, to learn how transmitter circuits worked. In the summer of 1968, he laid out his list of wants: no plug-in coils, with full band-

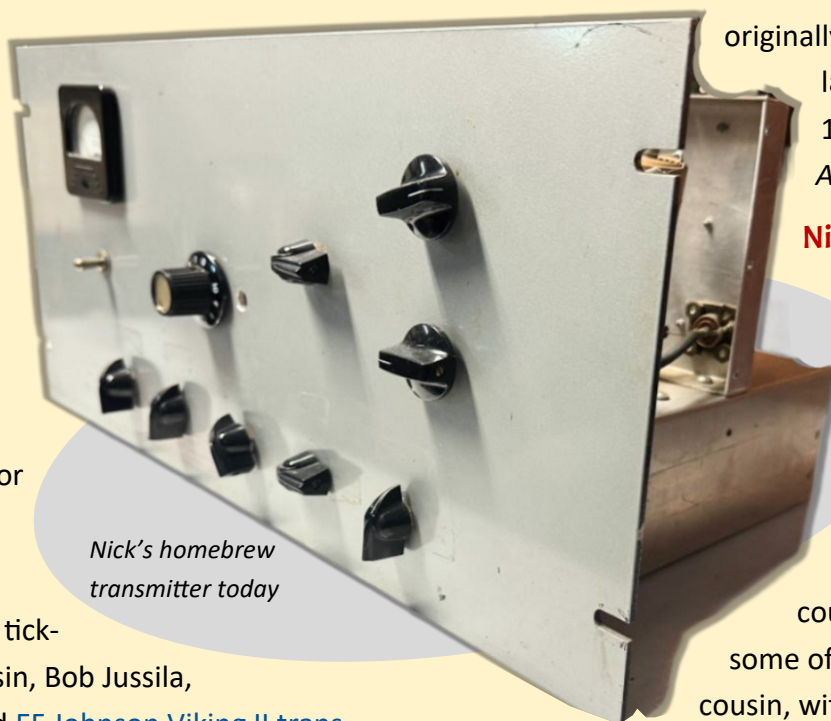
switching, a single 6146 output tube, not a pair of 807s (which was a common approach at the time), and construction plans drawn up to make it be a solid DIY project for a young Novice. The transmitter he chose was designed by ARRL homebrew guru,

Lew McCoy W1ICP, which was originally published in QST but later appeared in the 1965 edition of the *ARRL Handbook*.

**Nick says**, "I picked this Handbook rig because it looked possible to build! The ARRL lab had built and tested it, so I reasoned that I could too". He collected

some of the parts from his cousin, with others ordered new from [Allied Radio](#) and [Burstein-Applebee](#) catalogs—both popular parts vendors of the day.

The design was very elegant for the time, with the unique feature of using a pair of voltage regulator tubes to adjust the power level of rig to accommodate both Novice as well as General-class hams. Novices then had to limit their transmitter to 75 watts input (volts x amps at the final amplifier tube plate. 75 watts input would be roughly 40 watts output). This was done by using a pair of OB3 regulator tubes in series. But once the operator got his General, he could then swap one of the OB3 tubes



*Nick's homebrew transmitter today*



# HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

## Radio homebrew projects both large & small

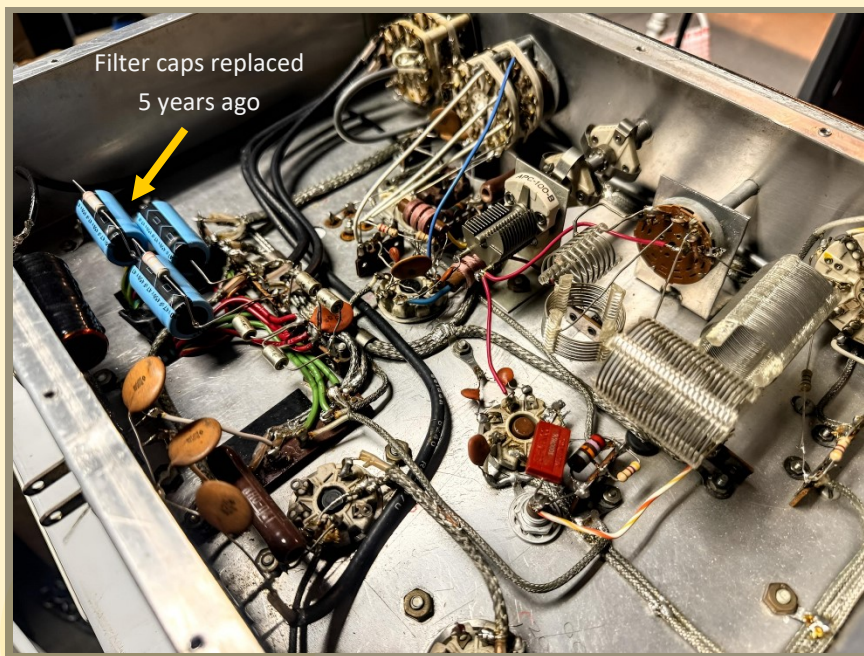


for an OC3 and the resulting voltage increase would achieve a full 120 watts input. Input power was the standard of the day, as it was part of FCC Part 97 that transmitters be rated for input power, not output (it is much easier to precisely measure input vs. output, especially back then).

Many transmitters of the “75-watt input limit” era had a means to adjust power, but none were as foolproof as this design, hard limited by the need to change out tubes to up the power to 120.

The schematic included an AM modulator section but Nick wasn’t interested in AM at the time, so, chose not to build that part of the circuit (it’s very easy to omit in such a transmitter).

Nick did all of the chassis metal work himself—he



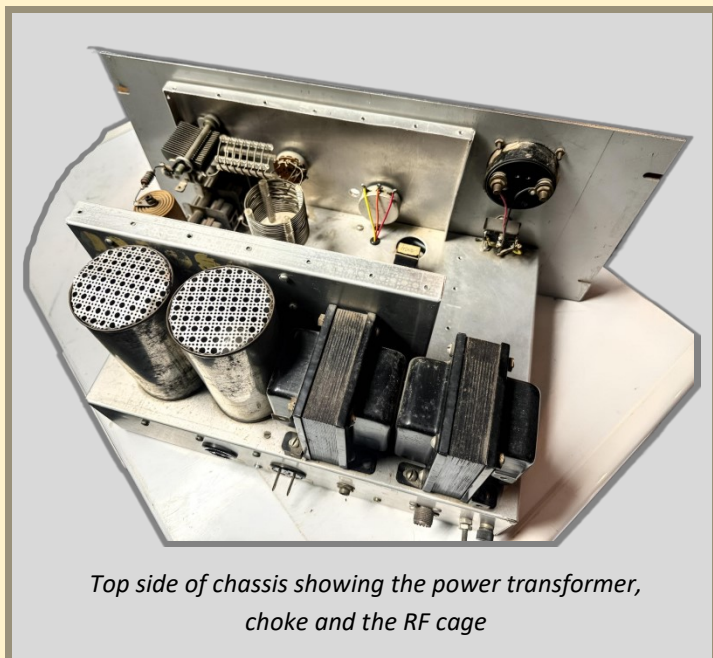
*Under-chassis view of the impeccable (for a 15-year-old!) construction of the transmitter. Impressive even by today’s standards!*

had limited access to aluminum shearing and bending gear both in the shop at school and at cousin Bob’s house. The ARRL plans included the front panel drill template, so Bob’s drill press made easy work of setting up the panel.

Nick cleverly added a couple of simple but very useful mods: he read that standard octal tube sockets could be used to hold [FT-243 crystals](#), so he modified the design to allow for 4 crystals, to be switchable from the front panel.

He also added a TR (transmit/receive) switch to the function switch to transfer the antenna to the receiver when each transmission was done.

Once completed, Nick paired his newly built trans-



*Top side of chassis showing the power transformer, choke and the RF cage*



# HOME BREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small



mitter with one of the very capable receivers of the era, the [National Radio NC-190](#)—a top-notch double & triple-conversion superhet with 9 tubes. For a new Novice operator in 1968, this was a very highly-performing radio station in every way, and a great way to start a Novice ham career back then.

Nick quickly got on the air with the setup, racking up contacts... it worked very well! But then one day he met up with none other than Jerry, [W7BUN](#), one of the legendary members of W7DK.

**Nick says**, “I was on the air one afternoon after school and had just finished up a QSO when a strong station started calling me. It was Jerry, [W7BUN](#), and he gave me his phone number [over Morse (CW) - ed.] and I called him. The first thing out of his mouth was ‘you got key clicks!’ At this time he lived near the radio club, so was somewhat close to me. We talked and he quickly pointed out my solution”.

That same month in QST Magazine, in the “Beginner and Novice” section there was an article titled, “Chirps and Clicks: Let’s Clean Them Up!”. Nick built the key-click filter and installed it in his keying line to the transmitter, called Jerry up, and tested with him... “Jerry said, ‘they’re gone? What did you do?’ and that was that. Solved!

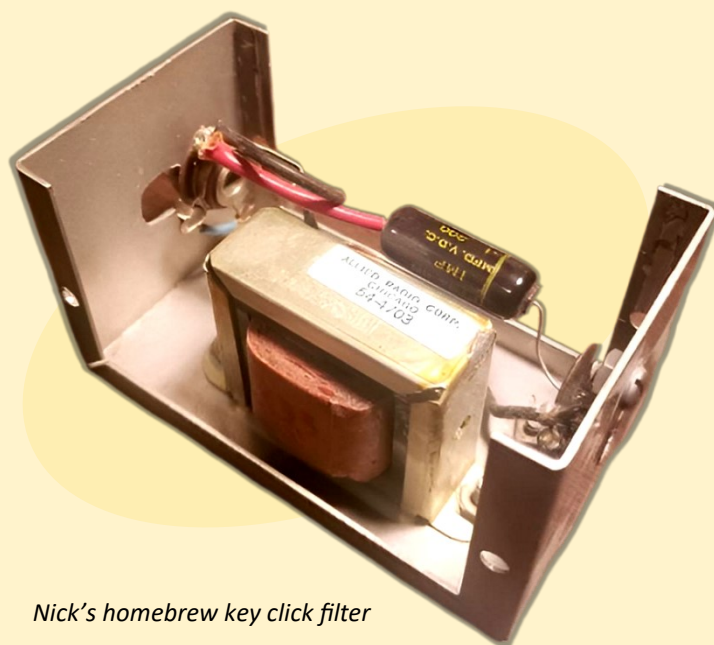
For those of the modern era, key clicks are unwanted sideband pulses produced when a key is rapidly keyed on and off. This can easily cause interference to other stations on adjacent frequencies.

The primary function of the filter is to shape the rise and fall times of the keyed signal RF envelope by



*Tube shields for the voltage rectifiers—built from old canned pineapple cans with cooling mesh on the tops!*

“shaping” the keying at the oscillator directly in the key line itself. This can be done with an RC circuit (resistor and capacitor) for a quick fix, but a far better option, and the one Nick built from the QST



*Nick's homebrew key click filter*



# HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small



article, is an LC (inductor and capacitor) design that can be much more effective in reducing key clicks.

All was well until Winter of 1969...

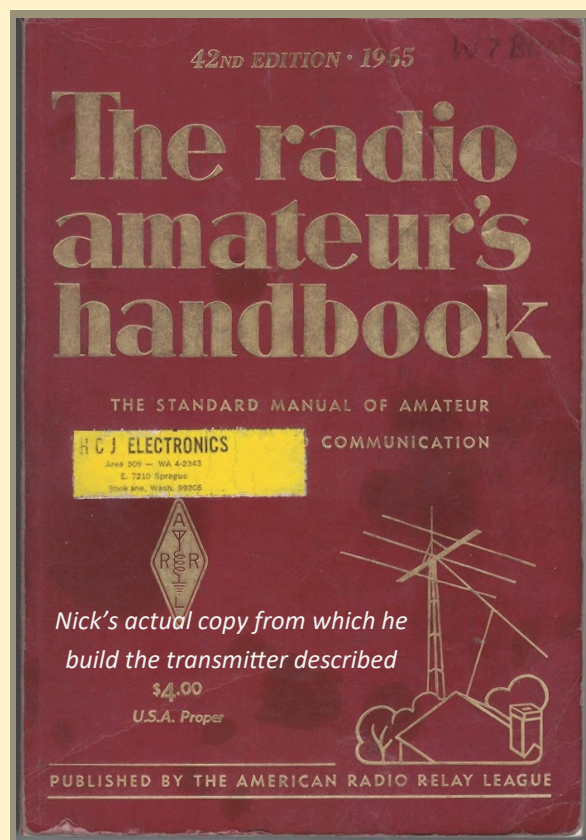
**Nick says:** “after passing my Advanced class license test, I didn’t have any money to buy an SSB transmitter so the next best thing was to crank up my power to 100 watts on CW. On January 7th 1969 I contacted WN7LDM in Port Angeles. Three days later in the mail, I received an envelope from the FCC Monitoring Station in Ferndale, Washington. Inside was a Form 790 Advisory Notice stating that they were hearing my 3730.5 KHz 2nd harmonic on 7461 KHz! *OH SHIT!!* I checked my signal with Hugh Farmer **K7GSH** (SK) and yes... there it was!

I tore the rig apart and after a bit of messing around and purchasing new coil stock I increased the Q [tightened the resonance –ed.] in the tuned circuit between the oscillator and amplifier stages. I called Hugh up and asked him to check, and he stated that I was *clean now*—he couldn’t hear *anything* on the second harmonic! Whew!”

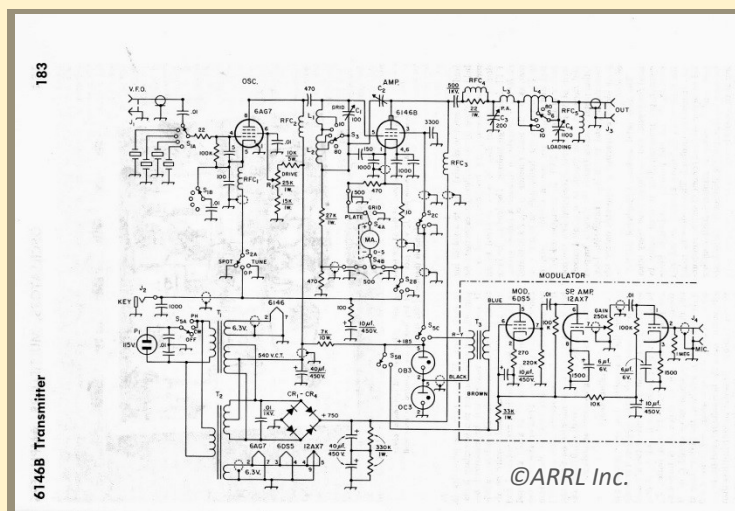
Nick went on to make well over 100 QSOs on this transmitter during his Novice and early Advanced career before moving on to bigger and better rigs.

To this day it remains operational in his shack. Only time has caused the typed labels to fall off the panel for the controls, but Nick knows what every single one does should he ever put it back into service.

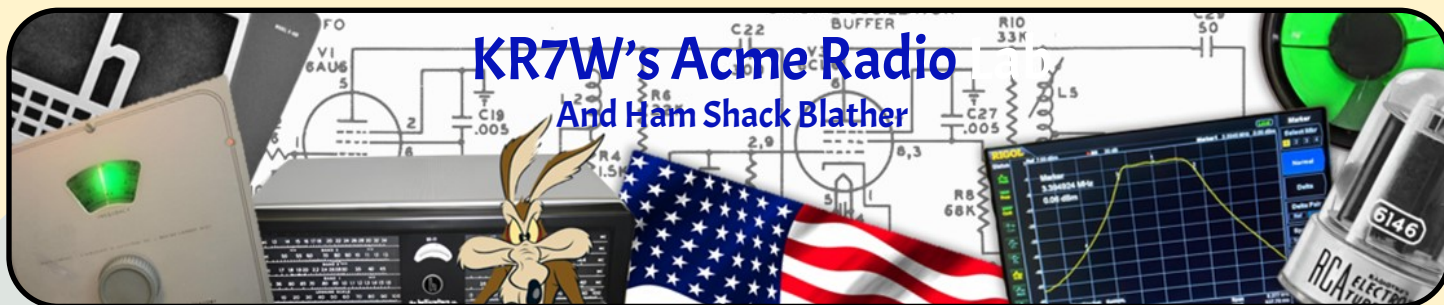
-Dave **W7UUU**



ARRL printed publications cannot be reproduced in other publications such as this, but you can find the transmitter project in the 1965 edition of the Radio Amateur's Handbook by ARRL







## KR7W's Acme Radio And Ham Shack Blather

### OH LOOKY... ANOTHER HW-7 OR HW-8 STORY!

**PROLOGUE:** This story begins in 2013. For a long time I wanted to add a Heathkit HW-8 QRP transceiver to my collection of unique radios that I enjoy taking down from the shelf to operate from the shack or set up on a picnic table in the park or possibly take on a Summits On The

Air activation (SOTA). Hamfest and eBay HW-8 prices were way too high for my liking. One day whilst surfing eBay I found the HW-8's older brother: an orphaned HW-7. The seller advertised it as "Guaranteed not to work" (instead of the usual

'UNTESTED') Buy it Now, \$50, Free Shipping."

Sure enough, the HW-7 did not work. Armed with the generously included manual and a VOM, I went to work. Two burnt PCB traces, that resembled blown fuses, were found on the circuit board, and the RF Choke in the output PA was burned out. Maybe it was lightning damage, but no solid state devices were damaged. I carefully jumpered the burned traces and rewound the choke. Abracadabra! The little radio was resuscitated.

Whilst making QSOs on 40 and 20 meters, I found the stations were hard to copy using the TX VFO (main tuning dial), because they were 'Zero Beat' in the receiver. If the VFO is adjusted for me to copy better, then my XMIT frequency has changed. My signal would be received outside of the far end ham's receiver narrow CW

bandpass. There is no circuitry in the HW-7 that while transmitting using the VFO to offset the receive frequency from the transmit frequency. This would provide the usual 700 Hz CW receive beat Frequency oscillator tone. When using a XTAL (crystal), the TX frequency does not move when adjusting the VFO for best reception.



*Despite a radical reworking, KR7W's Heathkit HW-7 QRP transceiver outwardly appears almost stock*

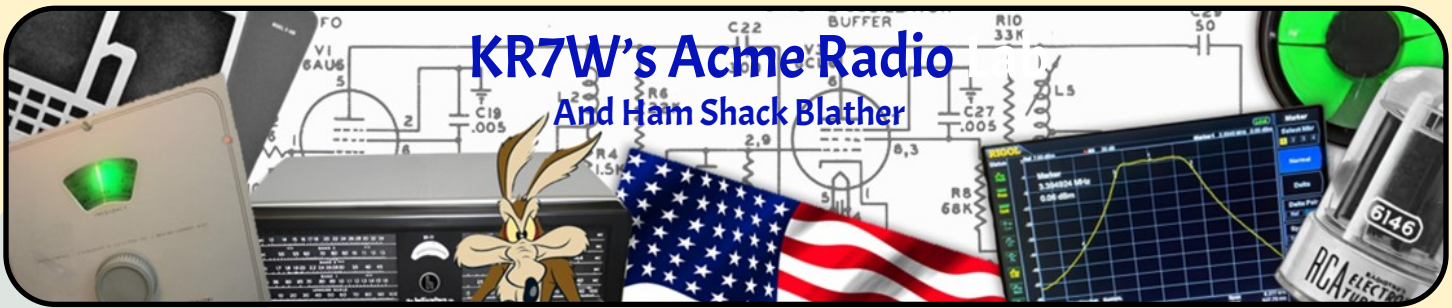
But Wait! There's More! *Issues*, that is: strong AM stations, like local AM broadcasters, WWV, Radio Habana, etc. were mixed loudly into the CW stations I could receive; AC hum was present in the audio when using an AC

power supply; there was too-wide bandpass selectivity for CW; and strong microphonics in the audio (meaning any physical vibration on the radio cabinet or even tapping the desk could be heard in the receiver audio).

**IT'S NOT ALL CRAPPY:** The 2 watt transmitter, which includes the VFO, works pretty well. Weighing good vs. poor, I deemed the transmitter was good and was determined to improve the HW-7's receiver.

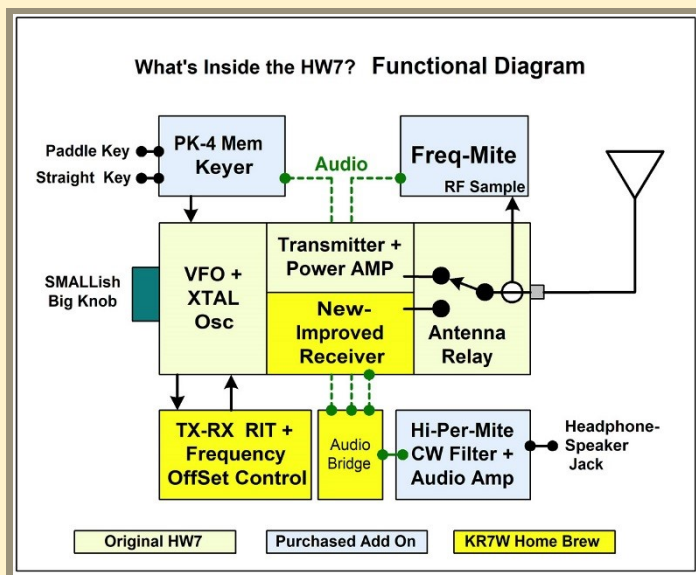
**RIT FOR THE HW-7:** While Googling for info, the first fix I came across was a QST article, [RIT for the HW7 by John Grebenkemper, WA6BVA](#). (RIT = Receive Incremental Tuning, similar to the 'clarifier' function found on some radios). To sum the article up: by adding resistance (like a RIT potentiometer) in series with the source end of the Q2 VFO FET, then the frequency will change when the





potentiometer knob is turned.

**WA6BVA's** clever circuit added some transistors that followed the 'keying line' to switch in the RIT pot when the key is up; then switch in a fixed value resistor when the key is down. So, RIT is active on receive only.



*Block diagram of the modified HW-7 showing original factory bits as well as **KR7W's** modifications*

**TAKING IT A STEP FURTHER:** By using some spare contacts on the Band Switch to switch in different values of resistors, it could always provide a 700 Hz RX offset, depending on which band is selected. Different values of resistors, to vary the RX frequency, are needed on each band because of the VFO's different frequency doubling and tripling scheme for each band.

The next RX modification was to improve the RX's Direct Conversion mixer—converter to eliminate the unwanted AM stations and microphonics of the original FET mixer.

The article, [Better Ears for the HW7](#) by Michael A. Czuhajewski, **WA8MCQ** got me started. But, the best

design for me was: [30 Meter Direct Conversion Receiver for the reception of QRSS Signals](#), by Hans Summers **GOUPL**. Note: Hans Summers later founded the wildly popular manufacturer of sophisticated QRP rigs, called [QRP Labs](#).

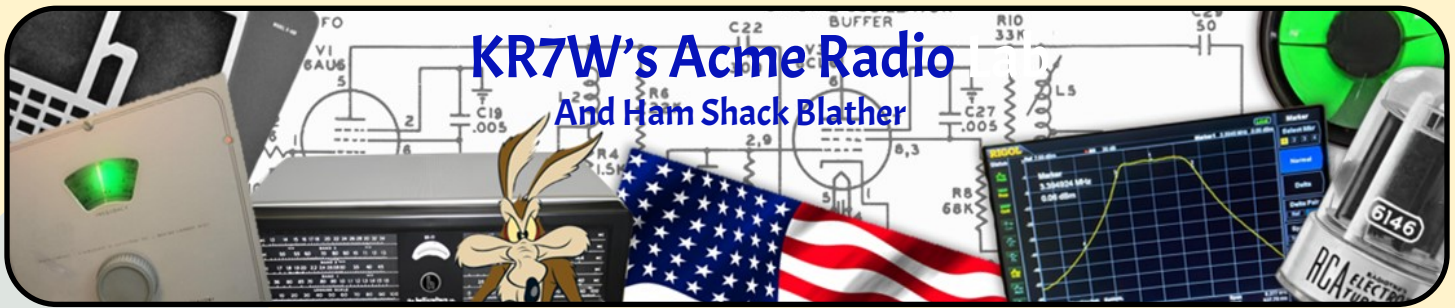
Hans' design is similar to the [Small Wonder Labs "Rock Mite"](#) which I had in my collection. Mr. Summer's design uses a SA602 double balanced mixer-oscillator that follows a tuned preselector between the antenna and the mixer. The preselector (like a tuned front-end) reduces the out of band AM stations that plagued the original MOSFET mixer.

Of course this HW-7 has 3 bands that such unwanted signals interfered with. Thanks to online tuned circuit calculators, tuned pre-selectors for 40, 20, and 15 meters were created to switch in between the antenna and the receivers SA602 mixer-detector.

The tuned preselectors for each band are switched into the RX circuit between the antenna and the SA602A mixer circuit using relays operated by spare contacts on the band switch. The VFO (oscillator) is connected to one of the SA602's mixer inputs. RF from the antenna is mixed with the VFO signal in the SA602 and the resultant output is the product-detected audio signal which routes to the front panel volume control, then to the [Four State QRP Group Hi-Per-Mite narrow CW audio filter and amplifier](#) via an audio bridge. Much prototype experimentation was performed on the bench before installing the preselectors and receiver module into the HW-7 cabinet.

**THE RECEIVER WAS COMPLETE:** Now it was time to add some accessories of convenience. The HW-7 was meant to accept a straight key to send CW signals. These days





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paddle and iambic keying is popular and almost a necessity. Enter the [WB9KZY PK-4 Morse Keyer Kit](#). The keyer can have 3 different pre-programmed memories accessed by a pushbutton. This HW-7 uses the first memory for “contesting pouncing” - quickly sending my call sign and nothing else. The side tone audio output has a separate volume control that is sent to the audio bridge and then to the Hi-Per-Mite audio amplifier.

The last accessory of convenience is the [Freq-Mite TX Output frequency measuring circuit](#) that samples the RF output by pushing the newly-installed front panel “F” button, which then outputs the measured frequency in Morse Code via the headphone-speaker Jack.

### VIDEO LINKS THAT SHOW THE HW-7 IN ACTION:

This video shows the power of 1.8 watts on 40m to a 30' high inverted vee antenna—it also demonstrates the front panel “P” button.  
[[LINK](#) to video]

This video is a SOTA (Summits **On The Air**) activation that demonstrates the PK-4 keyer and Hi-Per-Mite CW filter.  
[[LINK](#) to video]

This Video shows how the Freq-Mite works, **Fast Forward to 1:40**. Note 1. The antenna relay quick releasing issue has been fixed. Note 2: The “Cheap Chinese Antenna Tuner” ended up being an unreliable POS. Only the Toroid was harvested to build a better low power tuner out of plywood and slide switches.  
[[LINK](#) to video]

**OTHER REFERENCES:** 9 or 10 years ago I posted some HW-7 experimenting on my BlogSpot pages. As with most radio things I play around with.... It didn't get finished. Some things I posted talk about circuit details that are purposely left vague in this article.

[KR7W's Ham Radio Blog: QRP Fun... Heathkit HW7 - Chapter 1 - New Ears](#)

[KR7W's Ham Radio Blog: QRP Fun... Heathkit HW7 - Chapter 2 - RIT and CW Offset](#)

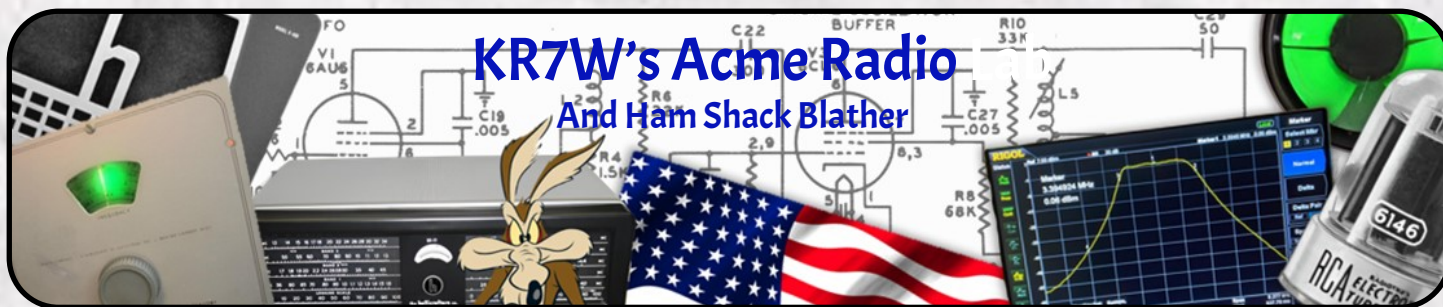
HW-7 blurb from **Heathkit Amateur Radio Collectors Guide** by Heathkit chronologist Chuck Penson [WA7ZZE](#)  
[[LINK](#) to article]

**EPILOGUE:** This project was a long one, challenging and pretty fun... otherwise I would not have finished it. I learned a lot about tuned circuits, toroid transformers, and how to better use my test equipment. I began taking the HW-7 on SOTA activations because it became way too easy to make 30 to 40 ‘Fishing in a Barrel’ QSOs with the KX-3 that usually accompanied me. I first thought the HW-7 for SOTA would be a handicap - but not so. It is about the same weight as the KX3 kit and only slightly more bulky inside my pack. It performs surprisingly well in the low man-made noise of the mountains. 1.8 watts output has never been a problem. The curious little plywood antenna tuner and speaker as seen in the videos will be showcased in a follow-up Bark article. Thanks for reading thus far. QRZ email me if you have questions. I'll answer if I know the answer.

-72, Ricky, [KR7W](#)

*PCB layouts and circuit details continue on next page*





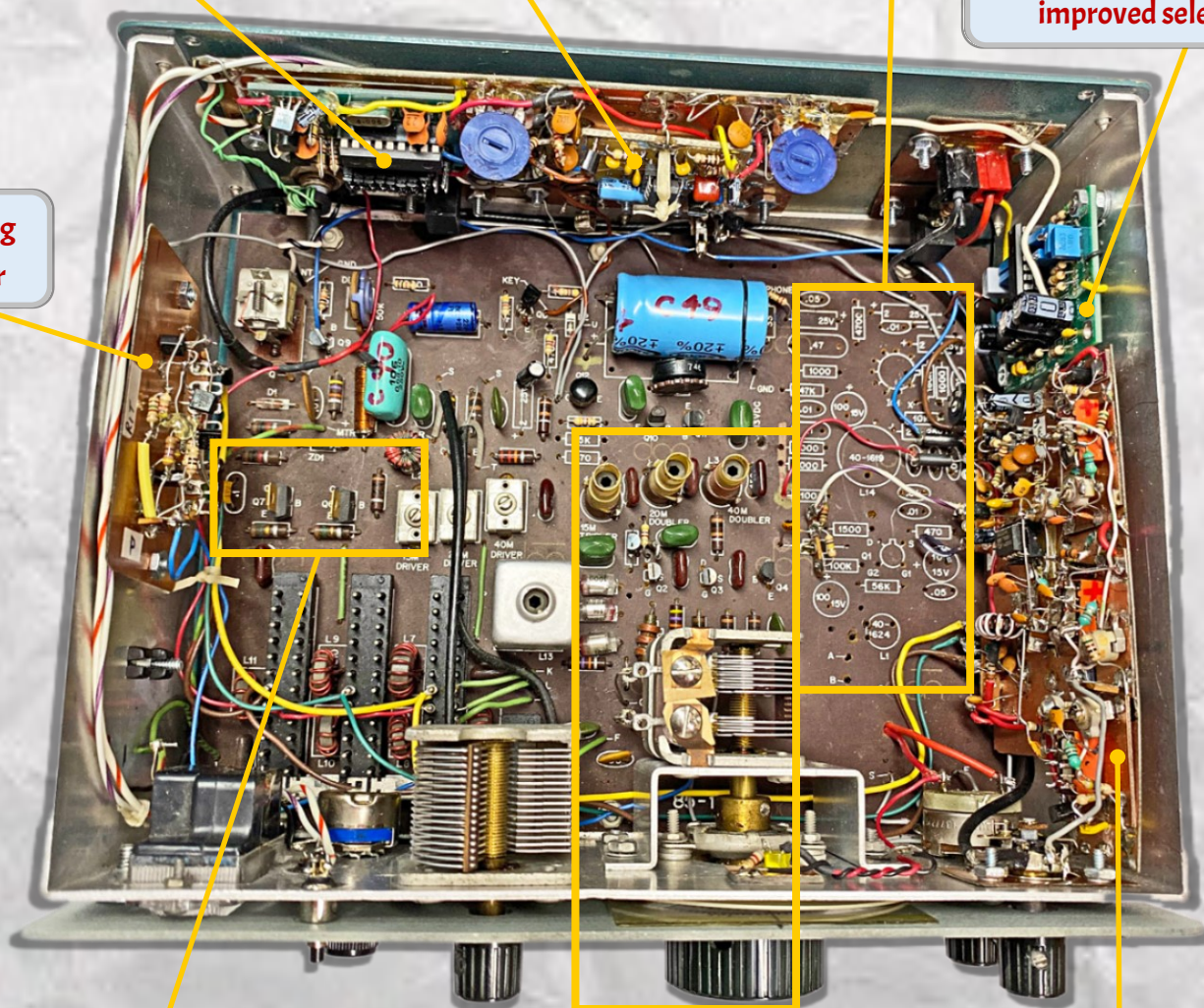
**FREQ-Mite PIC-powered Morse  
Code frequency counter module**

**PK-4  
Memory Keyer**

**Poorly performing original  
receiver completely removed**

**Hi-Per-Mite CW filter for  
improved selectivity**

**Offset Tuning  
RIT Selector**



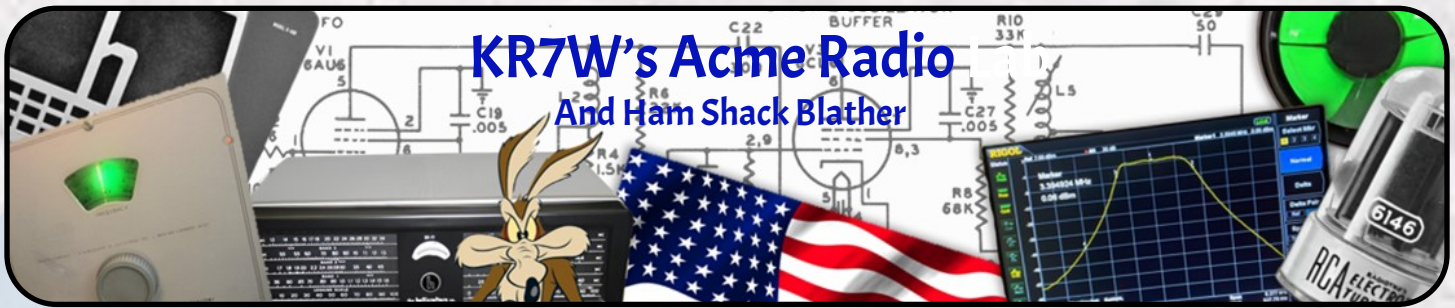
**Transmitter section—PA transistors  
for 1.8 watts output (typ.)**

**Original VFO and  
Tuning Dial**

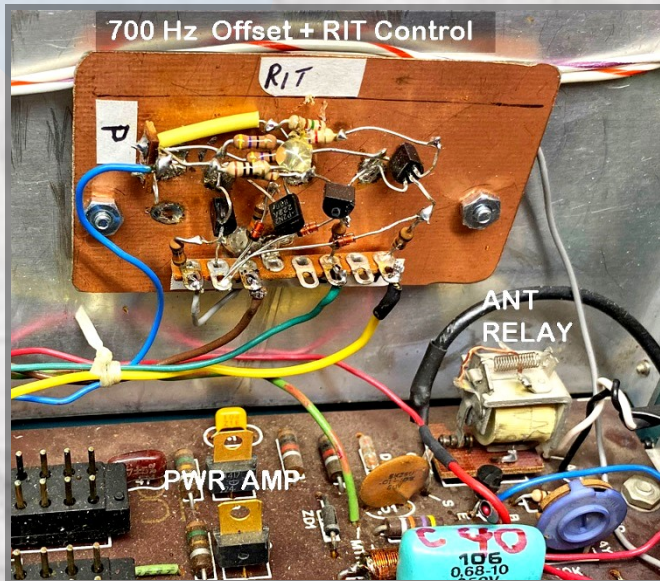
**New direct-conversion  
receiver board**

*Modified HW-7 chassis showing placement of  
the key boards and components*





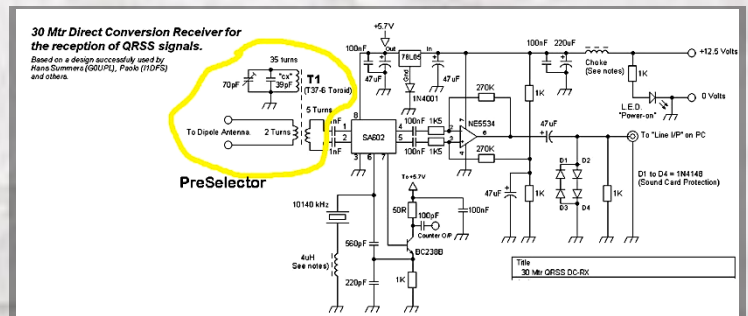
## KR7W's Acme Radio And Ham Shack Blather



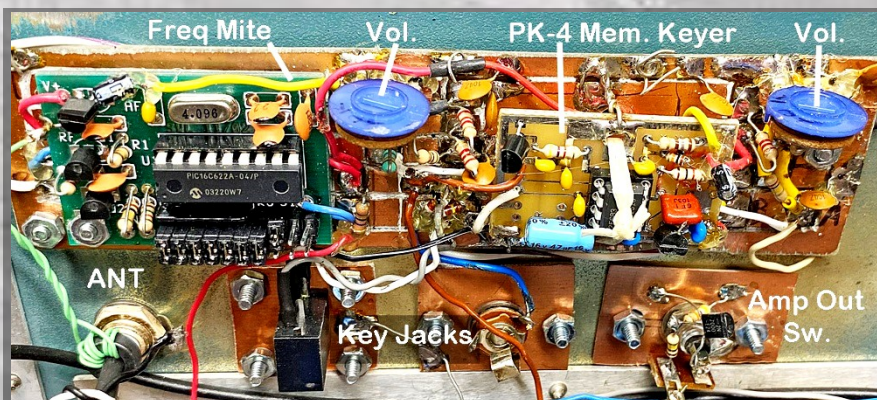
700 Hz offset and RIT control



Rear panel apron

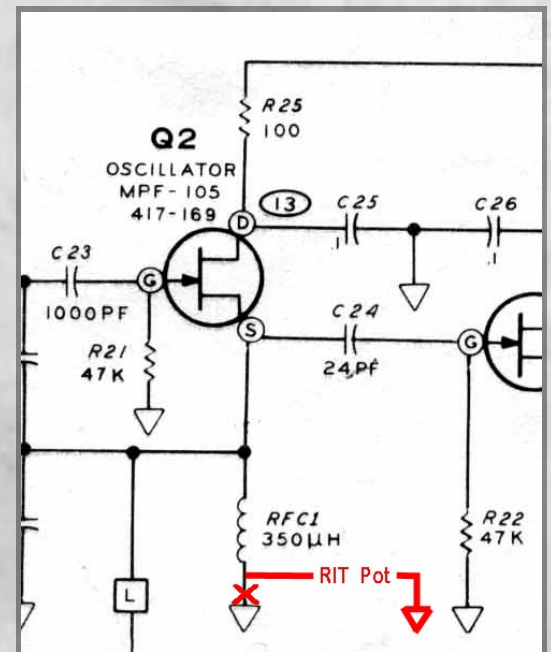


Hi-Per-Mite CW filter & new receiver board



FREQ-Mite counter & PK-4 Memory Keyer

Basic schematic of the improved receiver



Insertion point of the RIT pot

-Rich KR7W



# W70S DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

## Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU



**ONE OF THE MOST PRISTINE** examples of an early 1960s Heathkit came to the clubhouse in a recent donation of very nice boat anchor radios. It's a 1961 linear amplifier called the HA-10, and also part of the Heathkit "Indian Series" so it bore the secondary model as The Warrior.

This was Heath's first successful HF amplifier and was unique in being the first Heathkit that could be purchased fully assembled as an option. The first HF amp that Heath sold was something of a flop—called the KL-1 with the matching KS-1 power supply. Also of the Indian Series, it was called The Chippewa and failed simply because it was overly complicated, way too heavy, and very expensive.

The HA-10 was Heath's way of taking a fresh shot at the product, and it turned out to be a great success. Many HA-10 Warrior amplifiers were sold between 1961 and 1965, at which time the SB-200 was launched and became a wild success, selling well into the 1980s.

On the engineering side, the HA-10 was downsized over the KL-1 and was a very simple, but elegant and highly effective design. Unlike the KL-1, the power supply was built-in using a pair of 866A mercury tubes, delivering 1300 volts key-down. For the finals, the amp used four 811A tubes in parallel grounded-grid configuration, with fan forced-air cooling. The quad of tubes produced a maximum input power of 1000 watts. At the approximate 60% efficiency of the circuit, that translates to about 600 watts output on SSB and CW, and around 190 watts out when running AM. It's important

to remember that in the old days of radio, power levels were published as input rather than output, simply because it's *much* easier to precisely measure input power (volts times amps at the plate of the final tubes).

The HA-10 Warrior covered all bands 80 through 10 (including 11 meters, even though by 1961 that band was no longer legal for ham use!). The power supply was designed to use very large 8mfd oil-filled capacitors and a 5-50-Henry "swinging" choke to help achieve high peak power and minimize distortion.

As this was also the era of analog TV, the 16-gauge steel chassis used a massive steel internal

shield cage around the amplifier section to eliminate TVI and enhance overall stability.

Depending on frequency, the HA-10 only requires 50 to 75 watts of drive—a vast improvement over the KL-1 predecessor, which needed 100 watts to achieve the same power level.

The appearance is styled to match either the TX-1 Apache or the HX-10 Marauder

transmitters. As with all the rigs in the Indian Series, the shiny chrome knobs accentuated the two-tone green painted panel and cabinet.

The HA-10 Warrior in the clubhouse is by far the nicest I've ever seen in person! It needs work internally, but that's pretty straightforward. The front panel and knobs look like the amplifier was just built last week!

-Dave W7UUU



Heathkit HA-10  
"Warrior" amplifier  
Photo W7UUU



# MIGHTY DK! QSO REPORT

Reporting all the HF QSO action from the club



W7DK

**EACH MONTH** in the Bark, the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. [Saturday Open House](#), especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you. It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of The Mighty DK to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the Bark! (Don't forget to *enter your call sign* as the operator into our logging program.) ■ -editor



**Above:** HF Room Flex 6600 & Mercury III

**Below:** HF Room Icom IC-7610 & KPA-500

Clubhouse QSOs during this period:

NAME	CALL	QSOs
Mike	W7XH	45
Mike	W7MKE	33
Randy	WB4SPB	2
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-



Photos this page provided by

Dave **W7UUU**



# W7DK LOGGER'S CERTIFICATE

## Classic “first award” for Members



**HAVE YOU APPLIED** for your own W7DK Logger's Certificate?! It's FREE and it's EASY! All you have to do is work at least 10 members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, then send in your list of call signs worked, and BAM! We'll print out your certificate and get it to you toot sweet by US Mail.

There are no confirmations required—no logs to submit—and really no rules other than the call signs you submit must be members of the club. You may work them on HF, 2m FM, on FT8 or



SSB or any other mode! In fact, one of the best ways to get your 10 contacts is to check into the weekly Tuesday Night Net on the 147.28 club repeater... every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

This venerable award was first launched in 1957, using certificate paper printed by club member Dick Ryan, **W7RGD** using a donated printing setup. As of the date of this publication, there have been almost 700 certificates issued, including a few reissues over the years to replace lost certificates.

The original certificates were hand-lettered by long-time RCT member Barbara Osborne, **W7UYL** (SK 2022), and all of the records were kept in a series of recipe boxes still held by the club.

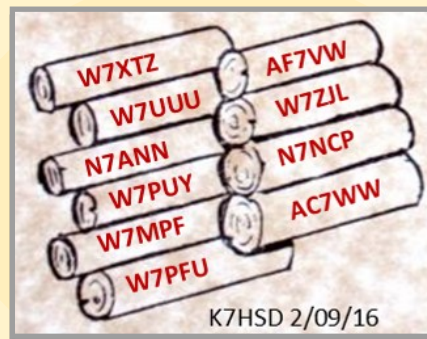
We still have a huge stash of this beautiful OFFICIAL logger's Certificate paper.... So if you do not already have yours, just shoot us an email with your list of call signs worked, and put “Logger's Certificate” in the subject line...

Send to [loggersbark@gmail.com](mailto:loggersbark@gmail.com)



Barbara Osborne **W7UYL** ca. 1955 at an RCT USO event

We also issue “Log Piles” for endorsements of each group of ten additional stations worked! So don't hesitate—get your Logger's Certificate or Log pile Endorsement *today!*



**Wanna get yours? Send in those contacts!**





Got a ham radio funny? Send it in!!





## Jarvis Island DXpedition—August 5-17 2024

Since the Dateline DX Association announced plans for activating Jarvis Island this summer many have asked if we could arrange with IOTA and POTA program organizers to secure approval of our DXpedition.

Jarvis is one of the rarest of the IOTA counters, having been off the air for 34 years. It is needed by 82% of IOTA program participants.

Because of the requirements set by the permit of the USFWS, while the stations and antennas and power are all set up on Jarvis Island, the local operators must conduct the DXpedition from the MV Magnet which will still be in the [Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuge](#) just offshore.

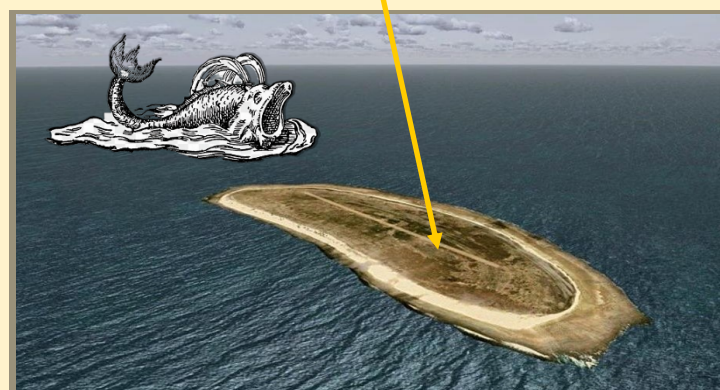
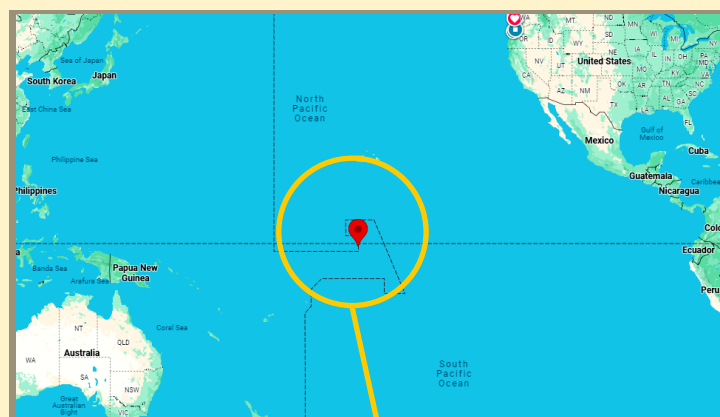
Both the IOTA and POTA programs have agreed to recognize QSOs made by the local operators but will not allow QSOs made by internet remote operators to count. Therefore QSOs made by **AA7JV**, **HA7RY**, **N1DG**, **KO8SCA** and **KN4EEI** will count for the awards. Daily uploads by the **N5J** team to ClubLog will identify the operators. Additionally at the beginning of each operator shift the team will endeavor to post on the cluster the callsign of the operator so

chasers have some real time notice. At this time all phone operations are expected to be by the on-Island team as well giving that mode 100% IOTA/POTA certainty for IOTA/POTA hunters.

In addition to the five operators mentioned above, there is an experienced team of 24 operators from 8 countries operating up to 6 stations around the clock ensuring DXers around the globe have ample opportunity to add an ATNO or band fill to their DXCC totals.

This is an expensive DXpedition to one of the rarest entities that DXers will see in 2024. Please visit our website, [www.jarvisisland2024.com](http://www.jarvisisland2024.com) and make a donation to help us put this one on the air.

-Don, **N1DG** and George **AA7JV** for the **N5J** team.







The [Dateline DX Association \(DDXA\)](http://www.dateline-dx.org), a world-wide DX organization, is pleased to announce to the amateur radio DX community the activation of Sao Tome & Principe, a small island nation off the coast of Gabon from **November 11 through November 20, 2024**.

The license, issued by [The General Regulatory Authority \(AGER\)](http://www.ager.gp) in Sao Tome and Principe, authorized the call sign S9Z.

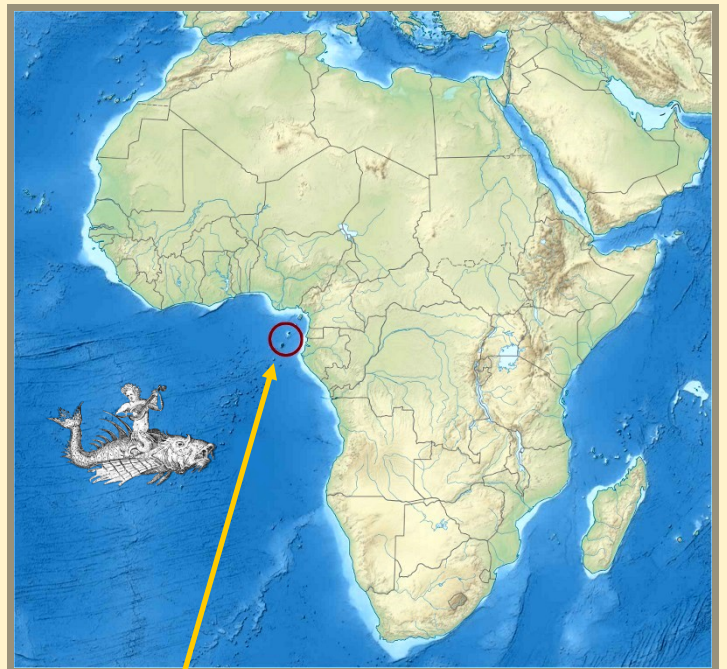
An international team comprised of: Tom **N4XP** (team leader), Roman **5B4AQN**, Jorge **CT1BOL**, Jose **CT1EEB**, Rigo **HI8R**, Max **I8NHJ/N5NHJ**, Kimo **KH7U**, Angus **KJ7KOJ**, Ralph **K0IR**, Al **K3VN**, Bill **N2WB**, Mike **N6MZ**, Dave **WB4JTT** and Robin **W7YED**, all highly experienced in DXing, DXpeditions, and contesting.

The team will operate on SSB, CW and Digital modes using stations with amplifiers, hex beams and tall verticals on all HF bands 10 through 160m; VHF on 6m and will also be on UHF 432 EME.

The website at: <http://www.s9z.org> is under construction but will be updated soon with full information about this upcoming DXpedition.

QRZ page is available at: <http://www.qrz.com/db/s9z>

Updated information will be updated with plan progress





# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

## Fun Stuff for Hams to Read!



W7UUU

**MOST HAMS ARE AWARE** you can get personalized car license plates with your call-sign on them. The vast majority of states have a fee for this—ranging anywhere \$15 (NJ) to a staggering \$122.25 right here in Washington State. California, in contrast, only charges \$20 beyond the registration fee.

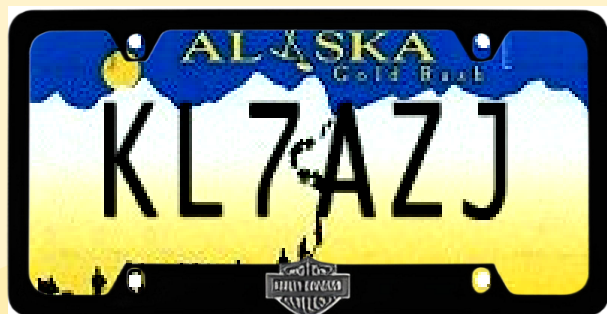
But the state of Alaska offers hams call-sign license plates for FREE! Except there's one major caveat. Applicants must certify on the [Alaska DMV application form](#) that:

"The vehicle contains or carries a transmitting and receiving unit of a type capable to that of my class of Amateur Radio License and the transceiver is capable of operating on at least 5 bands from 160 through 10 meters"

(Their forms department could really use an editor with better English skills!). And it goes on to have you declare:

"An antenna, a power supply, and wiring are a permanent part of the vehicle. I will immediately, upon deletion of equipment or transfer of equipment to another vehicle, notify the Division of Motor Vehicles and surrender my amateur radio license plates or transfer them to another vehicle. I understand that the equipment may be removed from my vehicle only for service or dry storage, but the wiring and power supply are a permanent part of the vehicle." (Emphasis is theirs).

So in other words, Alaska takes the idea of ham radio as an emergency communication technology very seriously. If you want ham plates, you need to be committed to it! ■ -editor

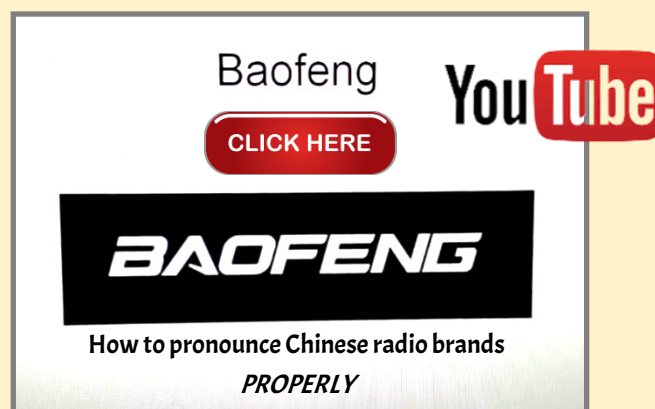


**SO LET'S TALK ABOUT** two big brands of cheap Chinese radios and how to *PROPERLY* say their names, and what those names mean in English. How many times have you heard the name of the very popular cheap Chinese radio brand Baofeng pronounced "Bo-fang", or "Bayo-fang"? Or all the fake "translations" of what the word in Chinese means—most famously (but silly and *wrong*!) that Baofeng in Chinese means "bear poop"?

The brand name Baofeng (宝峰) comes from the Chinese characters (宝 Bao) which means "treasure" or "gem" and (峰 Feng) which means "peak" or "summit". So if you put them together, Baofeng can best be translated to mean "Treasured Peak or Precious Summit"

Another big brand of Chinese radios with funky (to us) names is Wouxun. Lots of cheesy pronunciations are out there—most commonly "Wox On" (think Karate Kid with 'Wax On, Wax, Off'). But that's not even close to the proper pronunciation. This Chinese brand is pronounced "wo-shin" and derives its name from the Chinese characters (武 Wu) meaning military and (讯 Xun) meaning message or communication. So the name Wouxun can be interpreted in English to mean "military communication". It sounds almost exactly like the English word "Ocean".

Click the image below to hear a very short video of exactly how these names are pronounced in English. ■ -editor





# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

## Fun Stuff for Hams to Read!



W7UUU

**WHAT IS A CHARGE GUARD** and how does it help the ham radio community?

A [ChargeGuard](#) is a self-contained vehicle power management system that protects a vehicle's power system and attached electronics. It can help prevent dead car batteries and also protect mobile electronics from voltage fluctuations.

In simple terms, it's essentially a switch on a timer. When your car is not running, the battery voltage is typically around 12 volts. When the engine starts and the charging system kicks in, the voltage can jump to 14 volts, depending on the battery's condition. This device detects the higher voltage, turns on, and your ham rig comes to life. Once your ride is over and you exit the car, you don't need to worry about turning the radio off; the ChargeGuard will handle that for you. It can be programmed to turn off after 15 minutes or up to several hours. No extra relays are needed to manage a 2-meter rig.

This particular unit came out of active service some time ago and was given to me as a gift. It is an older model, and while new ChargeGuards offer more features, they also require a more complex installation. This unit simply connects to the battery lead and powers the ham rig, and like the radio, it requires a ground. It can be overridden in an emergency, such as when the car won't start.

One picture shows the ChargeGuard in the trunk of a fiberglass sports car with a Kenwood D700. Another picture shows it installed in a mini excavator, where it runs extra cooling fans.

ChargeGuards can be found easily at flea markets or on eBay, and new ones are [available on Amazon](#).

Happy motoring. 73 to all!

-Bob **K7MXE**



View of the circuitry of the ChargeGuard unit



ChargeGuard installed in excavator



As installed in Corvette trunk for the D700 radio

All photos on this page by Bob **K7MXE**





## DXING & POTA IN THE CARIBBEAN!

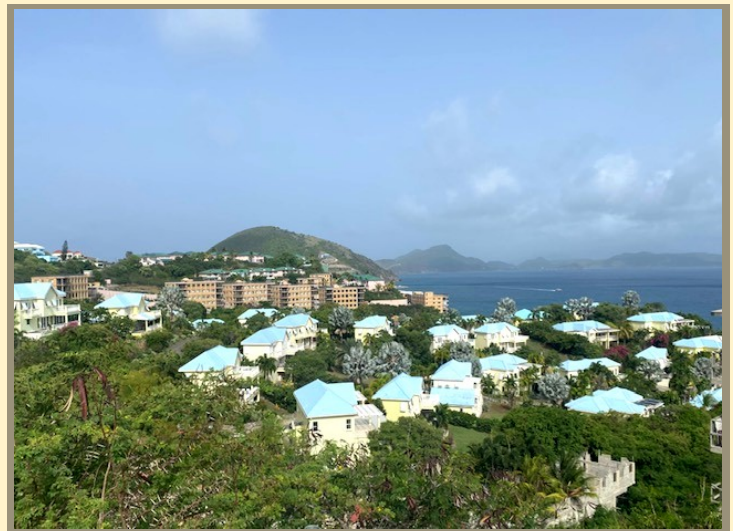
By BJ Rollison **WA7BJR**

I have made several 1-man holiday-style DXpeditions to Southeast Asia and the South Pacific islands, but I was itching to start exploring the Caribbean islands. As luck would have it, after contacting John Abbruscato (**W5JON**) while he was operating from his villa in St. Kitts and Nevis (**V47JT**), I realized his home address in the US was about a mile away from my mother's home. So, I emailed John and asked him if I could buy him lunch and pick his brain about operating conditions and licensing for [St. Kitts](#). After a fantastic BBQ lunch, John gave me a tour of his shack at his home in Texas and asked if I would be interested in renting his villa in St. Kitts. Of course, I exuberantly said "yes," and plans were made to holiday on St. Kitts with my family after my daughter's graduation from university.

John offers his beautiful villa as a vacation rental located in Calypso Bay Resort and offers a discount for amateur radio operators. The villa is 300 feet away from the Caribbean Sea, and about a mile away from the Atlantic Ocean, which makes for some great HF saltwater bounces to enhance DX signals. The shack at John's villa on St. Kitts includes a power supply, a Yaesu FTDX3000 transceiver, a manual Denton MT-3000A Antenna Tuner, a 10–40-meter vertical antenna (with a 160-meter coil attachment), a Mosley Mini 32A Yagi antenna, and also a Cushcraft 6-meter antenna available for licensed guests. It is set up and ready for phone, CW, and FT-modes; you just need to bring a laptop for digital modes and logging!



*John Abbruscato **W5JON**'s "ham radio ready" villa in Calypso Bay Resort*



*Overview, Calypso Bay Resort, St. Kitts*

In preparation for any DXpedition, the first order of business is to secure an amateur radio license for the country. Many countries offer reciprocal privileges, but how those privileges are administered vary from country to country. For example, a US citizen can operate in Canada under a bilateral treaty





that stipulates the Canadian DX prefix (/VE#) is appended after the US primary callsign. 26 European countries fall under the [European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration \(CEPT\) agreement](#). The US is not a CEPT nation, but we have an agreement that allows extra class US amateurs to operate under the CEPT agreement in those 26 countries. Some countries in Central and South America adhere to the Inter-[American Telecommunication Commission \(CITEL\) agreement](#). US operators wishing to operate in CITEL countries must obtain an [International Amateur Radio Permit \(IARP\) from the ARRL](#). Other countries will recognize the amateur radio license, but you must complete and submit an application to the appropriate authorities of that country, and you may be issued a unique callsign, or you may have to prepend the DX prefix to the beginning of your primary US callsign.

[St. Kitts and Nevis](#) requires you to submit a completed application, a copy of your passport, a copy of your current radio license, passport-sized photos, and the technical specifications of each piece of radio equipment. A licensing fee is \$30 USD and must be paid in cash or bank wire transfer before the [National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission St. Kitts & Nevis \(NTRC\)](#) will process your application. It is not advisable to send cash via regular mail, so if you are staying at John's villa, he may offer to pay the fee and apply it to the rental charge, or you can send the application and cash via FedEx. When applying for a license in a foreign country, I highly recommend that you submit your application and all

necessary paperwork and fees at least 4–6 months in advance. Mr. Andre Freeman handles the processing for radio licenses and is very responsive to email.



*BJ WA7WJR doing some late night SSB in the villa*

Since I intended to also activate the three parks on the island, I also had to include the technical specifications for my portable radio kit. My portable kit is the same whether I am activating a park close to home or traveling halfway around the world. When travelling internationally, I usually take a [Mastwerks 7-meter mast](#), a dipole with rigid shock-cord adjustable whips, and a [BuddiHEX antenna](#) in a [SportTube](#) that is checked luggage. However, for this trip, I decided I would take my [BuddiStick Pro Deluxe package](#).

Normally, I wouldn't take this antenna on a DXpedition; however, given that this antenna has been rea-





sonably effective during this solar cycle with contacts from coast to coast and across the Pacific to Japan and into the Caribbean during several Parks on the Air (POTA) activations in Washington and Texas. This antenna is very compact, sets up and tears down in minutes, and it is free standing (tripod), which is a specific requirement for all my DXpeditions since many of the islands I visit are volcanic rock.

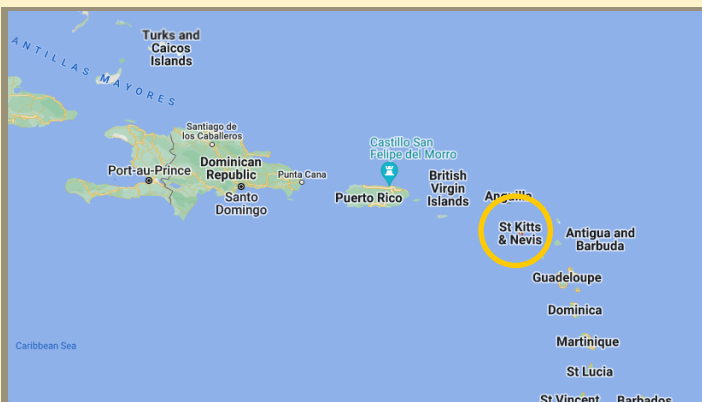
Getting to St. Kitts from the US is easy with daily American Airlines flights through Miami. There are a few other carriers that provide limited flight schedules. We chose to fly from Seattle to Miami and spend one night before heading onto St. Kitts the following morning. That made the trip a bit more comfortable for my wife and daughter and gave me the opportunity to activate a Florida park for the POTA program. Getting around on the island is also very easy. Taxis are plentiful; but the costs can add up quickly, so I decided to rent a car for the week. To rent a car on St. Kitts you must have a valid driver's license and purchase a temporary St. Kitts driver's license from the rental agency. The license costs \$24 USD and is payable only in cash! Driving is

on the left side of the road, there are virtually no road signs with street names, speed limits seem arbitrary but it's mostly around 40 mph, and Google Maps is often incorrect. Fortunately, the islanders will let you know when you are lost and point you back in the right direction.

We arrived Monday afternoon at the villa. It is amazingly wonderful. My wife and daughter decided to shower and go to sleep early, and I was ready to fire up the radio and start logging some DX contacts! Normally, reaching European stations from my home QTH near Seattle is a struggle to pull the signal over the pole. But, from this tiny island in the Caribbean, signals into Europe were 10 to 20 over on both 15 and 20 meters. It was a non-stop pile-up all week long. I fell into a pattern of working FT modes in the morning while eating breakfast, switching over to SSB mode. Go out and enjoy the day with my family, then back on SSB after dinner, and sometimes FT modes if the band conditions were poor, deep into the night. But I also got a chance to get out by myself and squeeze in activations of the three parks on the island.

### POTA ON ST. KITTS!

There are three national parks on the island of St. Kitts. There are also several historic places of interest on both St. Kitts and Nevis islands, but they are privately owned so they do not qualify as designated parks in the POTA program. If you plan on activating parks on St. Kitts (or tropical islands in general), here







are some basic tips for your portable operations. First, make sure to find a shady location to set up. The ocean breezes will help keep you a little cooler, but direct sunlight is not good for you or your equipment. Even sitting in a shady spot, you should use sunscreen and wear light-colored, lightweight quick-dry fabrics to feel cooler. Next, don't forget the insect repellent. The "family-friendly" repellents with 15% DEET do not work. [Deep Woods Off with 25% DEET](#) gives you a fighting chance. Finally, it goes without saying that you need to stay hydrated. A daytime temperature of 86 degrees Fahrenheit may not seem extreme, but the sun and the high humidity quickly zap your energy, especially if you are not accustomed to that environment. Now we're prepared, let's discuss the POTA parks on St. Kitts!

The first park I activated on St. Kitts was [Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park](#) (POTA KN-0003) and UNESCO World Heritage Site. The 17th-century British fortress was built on a steep volcanic peak by African slaves the British imported during their colo-

nial expansion. The large cannons protected the towns and harbors and were considered to be the Gibraltar of the West Indies. The park is a 35-minute drive from [Calypso Bay Resort](#), and there is a \$15 USD entrance fee. I like to take some time to explore and wander around every park I visit, and this place has a fascinating history and truly spectacular views. This site is frequented by tourists, so there is a gift shop, some refreshments, and restrooms available. As for operating, I chose a spot under a shade tree just to the left of the parking area with 2 picnic tables that was away from the main site.

The second park is [The Royal Basseterre Valley National Park](#) (POTA KN-0002), which is nothing more than a large non-descript field with 4 shade trees and an old chimney structure. If you didn't know it was a park, you would drive right past. Each of the 4 trees located towards the back of the park off the main road has 2 picnic tables. I was glad to have a tripod and a clamp to hold the post for my counterpoise because the ground here is solid limestone.







But honestly, I was quite disappointed due to the amount of garbage strewn about the area. I did activate this park twice only because it was a mere 5-minute drive from the villa.



*POTA operations by BJ **WA7WJR** at Central Forest Reserve National Park (POTA park designation KN-0001)*

The third park on the island is [Central Forest Reserve National Park](#) (KN-0001). This is a large park covering all lands above 1000 feet elevation and spans 3 mountains. The park is a 25-minute drive from the villa, and the main entrance to the park is the site of an old sugar cane mill. This is also a tourist destination, but there is no entrance fee. There is a gift shop with refreshments and restrooms. Tourists can partake in short ziplining, ATV guided tours, or hiking adventures. After a brief exploration of the restored mill ruins, I found a flat area with several picnic tables and a nice shade tree from which to operate. I sat alone under the tree and made several contacts

as a herd of goats passed through the area, and an occasional ATV passed on the dirt road between the knoll and the old mill entrance.

This was my first time to operate in the Caribbean and from St. Kitts and it certainly will not be the last. St. Kitts didn't remind me of the overly hyped tourist destinations of many islands; it has a more laid-back feel to it. For the family, it makes a nice quiet retreat from the day-to-day stresses. And of course, staying at John's villa feels like a home away from home rather than a stay in a hotel. And as for playing radio, it certainly gave me a very different perspective compared to what I am accustomed to when DX'ing from Pacific islands.

Until next time, 73!

-BJ Rollison, **WA7WJR**



*Brimstone Fortress main garrison, St. Kitts*





**WHILE NOT QUITE AS EXOTIC** as BJ and his amazing adventures in the Caribbean, your Editor Dave **W7UUU** and Anne **N7ANN** finally had a chance to head out for our first POTA of the 2024 season.

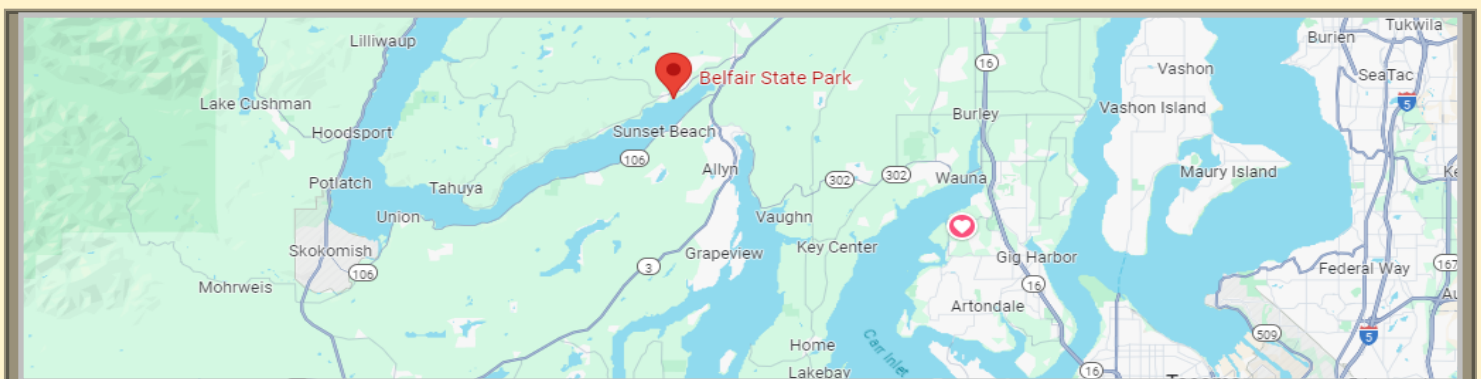
Our travels allowed for just a basic revisit to an old familiar place, Belfair State Park. But the park is always wonderful, and quiet (both acoustically as well as RF noise). It's such a pleasant place—a park I've known since I was a kid.

On this activation, my first of the year, I made 17 CW QSOs, 13 Data (FT8) and 4 Phone (SSB), for a total of 34 contacts. But we were planning multiple activities for the day including our picnic at the park, and a drive around the Hood Canal to spend the beautiful summer day. It was a lot of fun!

-Dave **W7UUU**



Beautiful sunny summer day! Photos by Anne **N7ANN**







**THE WEEK OF JUNE 30 TO JULY 6** marked the first of two Camp Quest Northwest (CQNW) week-long youth camp events. This camp experience was an absolutely delightful event for me to be a part of. My purpose in participating was to bring ham radio fox hunting to the campers. I arrived at camp at noon on Wednesday, where camp director Mike Warbington **KK7QMG** introduced me to the campers. I gave a quick verbal overview of this ham radio hide-and-go-seek game and a cryptic overview of how finding the “fox” would help them in their camp game of “Dystopia”, which each of the campers were eligible to participate in.

Backing up a bit, as in past years, Sam **N9MII** had set up the ham radio tent with HF and VHF radio capability. Each year, campers are able to explore ham radio by talking live (QSOs) with other ham radio people and learn about other ham radio topics. This year-to-year camper familiarization with ham radio is the secret behind campers enrolling in the three-day and night intensive licensing event in January 2024 at the Radio Club of Tacoma. See March *Loggers Bark*, Page 53, for highlights of this first-time event. Link: [Loggers Bark March 2024](#).



Steve **AF7YD** demonstrating the two concurrent S-meters on the fox hunt radio

**THE SETUP:** Our challenge was to fully engage 30 campers, aged 8 to 18, in one of two 45-minute periods. There wasn't much time, and none of the campers were familiar with the equipment. Our purpose here was to create a great, memorable

experience. Instead of the common fox hunt, which sets up hunters as competitors, Becky **KG7FZH** designed a collaborative hunting process where teams of three campers used one fox hunt radio system each. One camper operated the tape measure beam and offset attenuator. Another operated the radio and read the handheld radio's many-bar S meters for maximum strength-bearing. The third worked with the other two and drew a bearing line on their map.

The storyline was that a spy was believed to have infiltrated the realm. The secret frequency the spy was using was known, and the ham radio equipment available

could be used to find this spy. Each three-camper team (with a counselor) would go to an assigned location near the edge of the realm, take a bearing, draw it on their map, and return to the start near the radio tent. There, each team would copy their bearing line onto the master map. The storyline included instructions to keep the radios off until bearings were being taken to avoid alerting the spy. However, the

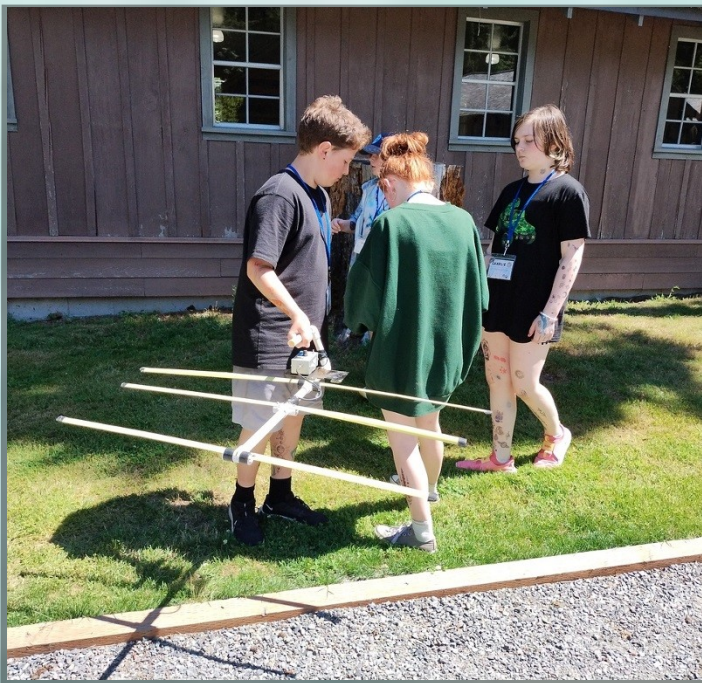
**Got a Youth radio story? Send it in!**





real reason was to prevent hunters from noticing a strong signal if they walked past the fox. We wanted to stress the importance of team cooperation.

Each team received a quick one-on-one briefing on how to use the equipment and was sent to their assigned location. When they had their bearing line, they returned to the start, and the bearing lines were combined onto the master map. All teams could then see where most of the lines converged and go to that place to quickly find the fox. However, it wasn't so simple. The hunters went to the convergence where the signal was very strong, and hunters on different sides took more bearings, but the fox was still not evident in this large open field. They eventually found it together inside a portable plastic barrier vertical tube that had been there all week, hiding in plain sight.



*Campers ready to proceed to assigned positions*

Campers learned how sneaky those spies could be, and counselors had a good chuckle.

All of this occurred on Thursday morning. On Thursday afternoon, there was a free period and two more on Friday. Seven campers showed up at the radio tent, where we made more ham radio contacts and practiced the phonetic alphabet. One camper, newly licensed at age nine, was able to make contacts under his own call. As for fox hunting, we did several more hunts, this time with one- or two-person teams. When the fox was found, there was a secret message for the hunters to decode using a number-to-alpha cipher, revealing useful clues for the camp's week-long storyline. There was no downtime to get bored; there was always a next step.

As camp came to a close on Saturday, I spoke with the parents of the seven campers who continued radio tent and fox hunting and offered my card, letting them know I would help them find someone willing to mentor them and include them in other local ham radio activities. I believe we, as a ham radio community, must become more assertive and proficient at including and mentoring all who arrive at our ham radio doorstep.

**TECHNICAL NOTES:** In collecting and getting the fox hunting equipment ready and checked out, I learned and confirmed how important it is to have the radio equipment and coax connections all in order. I standardized, where possible, on using BNC connectors because they are quick to connect and reliable. This meant I had to have various SMA and BNC adapters. No two beam-radio-attenuators were the same, so setting up the radios for use was challenging. All radios we





used had two active receivers and two many-bar S meters. Radios with only five or fewer bars are much more difficult to use and hence more frustrating for a learner.

All radios were set up so the operator could see the S meter for the direct frequency and the offset frequency simultaneously. All offset attenuators have some loss, so they can never be as sensitive as listening directly. Having a switch for direct or offset on the attenuator would be best. However, most offset attenuator kits are not really set up to do this.

I compared offset attenuators housed in metal and plastic boxes. I noticed that attenuators in plastic boxes are much less effective when near strong signals. Because of the direct radio wave radiation into the unshielded components, the full range of the offset is unavailable. This is frustrating when close to the transmitter because you can no longer get a bearing. I plan to move three of the plastic box Hamfair special attenuators to a metal box. Including a power LED indicator will be most helpful.

To be on the safe side, we planned to deploy five fox hunt systems. We had seven fox hunt systems ready. When the hunters are ready to depart, there is no time to fiddle or adjust. It was a good thing we had extra equipment at the ready; we needed them.

**SUMMARY:** In all, this camp was a significant learning experience for me. I saw firsthand what it takes to plan all the details of the campers' activities, offering maximum age-appropriate freedom of choice while managing a safe and fun experience for all the managers, counselors, and campers. And yes, there is a process for managing inappropriate behavior. At this

camp, all the campers were well-behaved and not afraid to approach me when they were curious about something. I learned a lot by watching the counselors interact with their campers. I was better able to craft my behaviors to offer campers better insights and choices.

Conclusion: Youth fox hunts are about the social experience created as much as or even more than the technical experience. This was true when the Radio Club of Tacoma conducted monthly driving fox hunts on 6M AM in the 1960s, and it is true for any age group today. They can be fun for all, even observers.

**WHAT'S NEXT?** CQNW's next camp occurs in mid-August with three times the number of campers. I feel the team of Becky, Sam, and I were quite successful with 30 campers. I admit I am feeling a bit apprehensive with 90 campers scheduled for August. Since the deadline for the Loggers Bark article submission occurs while I will be at camp, it will be October before I can continue reporting my camp learnings. So I'll have another youth topic for September. Please keep me advised on the ham radio youth activities you are all involved with. We need to be aware of each other and support one another.

73, Steve, [AF7YD](mailto:AF7YD) [stevedightman@rainierconnect.com](mailto:stevedightman@rainierconnect.com)  
Youth Coordinator, ARRL Western Washington Section  
Radio Club of Tacoma Treasurer



# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

## Amateur Radio EmComm News & Topics

By Doug AB7DG



### Setting Up Winlink

IN MY PREVIOUS EMCOMM ARTICLES explaining the I-am-Safe welfare messages system, I explained that a Welfare Message Collector (WMC) enters disaster survivors' message data into a Winlink welfare message template, then saves each survivor's data to a small text file. Then the WMC needs to provide the text files to a Welfare Message Transmitter (WMT) - an HF station with backup power that can transmit those files to a Winlink gateway beyond the disaster area. I noted that one method a WMC might use to deliver those files to a WMT is using a laptop's Winlink app (likely peer-to-peer) and an HT or mobile transceiver. In this article, I'll describe my personal experience using my HTs to transmit Winlink messages using Vara FM.

#### Winlink with my AnyTone AT-D878UV Plus HT

I purchased from [Digirig.net](https://www.digirig.net) its \$50 "Digirig Mobile" sound card interface and its \$30 Baofeng cables (works for AnyTone and other HTs with type-K1 connectors). I wrote down the steps that I follow to use this HT with Winlink's Vara FM mode. I keep a text file of these steps in my laptop's Winlink folder that I access from a shortcut on my Windows desktop—what follows is a simple step-by-step tutorial in how to get this all set up.

#### STEP BY STEP:

1. On the HT, short-press P2 to enter VFO B and set frequency using keypad. (cannot check squelch if in DMR mode)
2. Turn off Squelch: Menu | Settings | Radio Set | Other Func | 6 Ana Sq Level then select OFF.
3. Connect HT to Digirig's Audio port, and Digirig to laptop's USB port. Use Windows' Device Manager to confirm if Digirig (Silicon Labs CP210x) is using COM3 or some other COM port.
4. Set HT volume to about 10%, just one bar.
5. Start Winlink and Vara FM. In the Vara FM window, click Settings | PTT, and set to COM3 (or other COM port Digirig is using) and RTS. Check that Vara's Settings | SoundCard shows Digirig for both Device input and output.
6. Set Windows' Sound Control Panel's Digirig levels for Playback/Speakers/Rx at 30 and for Recording/Microphone/Tx at 3. Vara's VU Meter should show about 1:00 to 2:00 o'clock.
7. Check frequency on HT; Ping and Autotune a known (nearby) gateway.

(Continued on page 60)

Got an EmComm story to tell? Send it in!





# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

## Amateur Radio EmComm News & Topics

By Doug AB7DG



8. If anything fails, then exit/restart the Vara FM Session window, disconnect the Digirig from the laptop, possibly re-boot the HT, and try again.

If no Winlink gateway is nearby, you may need a roll-up J-pole or other antenna to connect with a distant gateway. Winlink transmissions do not need very high power.

### Winlink with my Yaesu FT-70D

I also use the Digirig Mobile interface with my Yaesu FT-70D HT, along with Digirig.net's \$20 Yaesu HT cable. My personal step-by-step guide for this transceiver is shorter:

1. The HT should be in Analog FM mode for Rx & Tx, so both LEDs are green on Rx and red on Tx. Press Mode button 'til display shows FM. Insert Digirig cable very firmly (push hard) into the HT's MIC/SP port.
2. Set volume to 2 of 31.
3. Set squelch to zero (off). Press+release F button, then press Moni button (beneath PTT) to adjust Squelch by turning the knob. Then press either the Moni or F button to re-display the frequency.
4. Set Windows' Sound Control Panel: Tx and Rx both at level 10. Vara's VU Meter should show

about 1:00 to 2:00 o'clock.

5. Check frequency on HT; Ping and Autotune a nearby gateway

6. If ping shows "no signal", then exit & restart Vara FM.

I urge readers to experiment with their own HTs and create their own step-by-step guides. It's too easy to forget a step if you've not created such a guide for yourself.

### Troubleshooting

I've used the above settings successfully many times, but as I prepare to submit this article to the editor, I am encountering problems -- when I "Ping," the HTs get stuck on transmit until I turn off the HT. I then must unplug the USB cable and re-start Vara FM. The Digirig website's troubleshooting page states that problem likely is due to RF. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

My problem was resolved in my shack by holding the HT farther (about 4 feet) from my laptop for both the Yaesu and the AnyTone (but using the AnyTone's Turbo power setting remained a problem. I may need to add ferrite beads to the cables).

*(Continued on page 61)*





# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

## Amateur Radio EmComm News & Topics

By Doug AB7DG



### Shortcut to Access Windows Sound Control Panel

You will regularly access the Windows Sound Control Panel when using Winlink. A Quick Setup Guide for Winlink authored by Scott Currie **NS7C**, and Oliver Dully **K6OLI**, offer this tip to quickly access the Windows Sound Control Panel:

Build a direct shortcut to your Sound Control Panel for quick access:

1. Right-click on Desktop
2. Select Create Shortcut
3. In "Type the location of the item" copy and paste control mmsys.cpl
4. Click Next
5. Type Sound cards
6. Click Finish

### Customize your Soundcards Shortcut icon:

Properties -> Shortcut -> Change Icon -> paste  
C:\Windows\system32\SHELL32.dll

I was able to place the speaker icon that executes this shortcut on the task bar of both my Win 10 and Win 11 computers to quickly access my Sound Control Panel.

For a detailed explanation: [CLICK HERE](#)

### Internet Resources

Michael **KH6ML** recently posted a YouTube showing how he configures his AnyTone 878 with a Digirig for Winlink. To view the tutorial on YouTube, click on the thumbnail below.

His settings differ from mine, but I suspect that many different settings will suffice. You will likely find other videos and post about using Winlink with HTs if you search the internet. I urge you readers to experiment with your HTs and make notes of what works best for you. Note that if Windows updates, you may need to adjust your settings.

-Doug Schafer, **AB7DG**

YouTube



Michael **KH6ML**'s Winlink HT setup tutorial



# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

## Hidden Word Contest!

Somewhere in this edition of the Logger's Bark is a hidden word. If you are the first to find that word and report it to your Editor, you will win a free QRZ Sticker mailed to you! This month's word is **Vibroplex**! It will be hiding in a sentence—just tell your editor via email what the word is and the page and you will win if you are the first! (*THIS page* doesn't count!)

**Vibroplex** is the brand of side-to-side mechanical, semi-automatic Morse key first manufactured and sold in 1905 by the Vibroplex Company, after its invention and patent by Horace Greeley Martin of New York City in 1904. The original device became known as a "bug", most likely due to the original logo, which showed an "electrified bug". The Vibroplex Company has been in business continuously for 119 years, as of 2024. Amateur radio operator Scott E. Robbins, **W4PA**, became the eighth owner of the Vibroplex Company on December 21, 2009. Today, the company is located in Knoxville, Tennessee and is still very much in the business of selling such keys to modern CW ham radio operators.

■ -editor

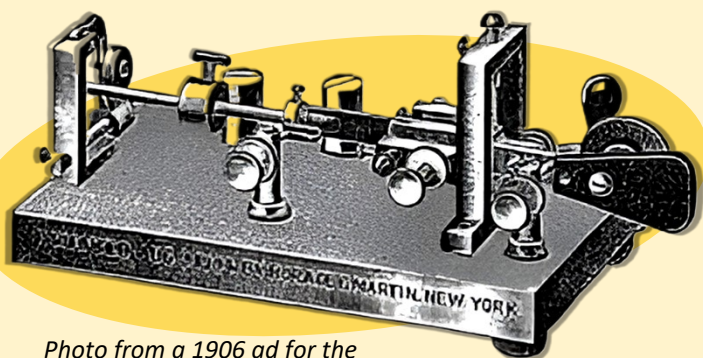


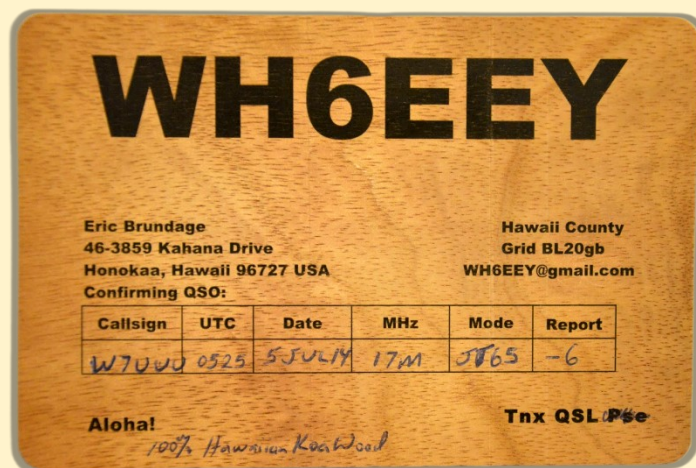
Photo from a 1906 ad for the original Vibroplex in May 1906

## QSL Card of the Month



Once again, *having not received any member submissions*, I will feature a couple more of my QSL cards. On top is one of the *most amazing*—this dates to 1976 when I was a new General Class. It's an *embroidered patch*!! Sal ran a business making patches, and he made these for only certain QSOs he had.

Same story below – this ham made his "special cards" out of *real Hawaiian Koa wood*—now considered a very rare luxury in the wood markets. The front side features a beautiful etching of the Hawaiian islands but I wanted to feature the rear—and the fact this card was sent for a JT65 QSO! Alas, I believe that both of these QSO friends are now SK. -Dave **W7UUU**





# W7DK LIVING HISTORIES

Member video interviews and profiles



W7UUU

**BACK IN 2015**, when I was helping to organize the W7DK Centennial Banquet and Celebration, I asked about possibly recording video interviews of club members for future generations to learn more about those that came before them. However, that plan like so many things in life, sort of slipped by the wayside and I truly regret not revisiting such a project much sooner.

The fairly recent loss of our most senior member, Worth Gurley, **W7WG**, a true friend to all who knew him and to strangers alike, reminded me of the extreme importance of capturing aspects of our members lives and involvements not in only ham radio, but also with the Radio Club of Tacoma.

So I've finally got that "round TUIT" that I should have found sooner and have embarked on recording what I am calling the W7DK Living Histories Project. For this effort I video a short (15-20 minute) interview with our members in a free-form format to allow them to share some insights into how they came to amateur radio, and how they became involved with the Radio Club of Tacoma.

So far I have produced a small number of these videos but it's an ongoing process, and I hope to

continue until all members who wish to participate have had a chance to do so.

One of the challenges of any such project is where to store the data that is the encoding result of all the video that is produced and edited. If stored on a local computer such as at home it is subject to the failures we all know can happen: fire, elec-

tronic failure, physical loss (where did I put that hard drive?) or other calamities. Storing at the clubhouse doesn't fare any better in the long run.

So the videos are being uploaded to YouTube, where they have a strong chance of remaining there for a great many years to come. Several

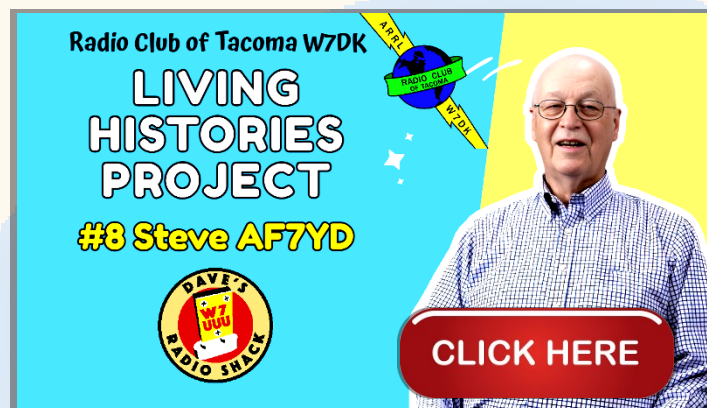
are already uploaded, with several more in editing and more on top of that slated to shoot.

I hope to record such histories of ALL members who wish to tell their stores—please contact me if you would like to participate.

Please enjoy this series of videos, with a new link every month. Click the image to watch the video.

-Dave **W7UUU**

## W7DK Living Histories Project #8



*Click picture to watch the video*





W9EVT (SK)

# Shack of the Month



Nick K7MO

Long-time RCT member Nick Winter **K7MO** in his South Tacoma shack on Field Day, running his South Hill Contest Club call of **N7PP** for the event. Originally licensed in 1967 as **WN7IVO** (later **WA7IVO**), Nick joined the RCT in September 1970 as member #640 and is a Life Member. His call sign today is **K7MO**. His primary rig is an Elecraft K4D, with an Alpha 9500 amplifier—all feeding into a SteppIR DB18E at 70 feet. Nick is a big-time DXer with 327 confirmed entities in the ARRL DXCC system. He's also a regular hardcore HF contester, and longtime pro at ham shack design. If you ever want to talk about these topics, Nick is the man to see!



# TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about



W7UUU



FlexRadio 8500M

**ANNOUNCED AT HAMVENTION 2024**, FlexRadio is now taking deposits on their latest and greatest offering, the Flex 8000 series which includes the FLEX-8400 as well as the pictured FLEX-8400M “Flex with knobs and 8-inch touchscreen” version.

**Says Flex:** “The [FLEX-8400M](#) integrates all FLEX-8400 capabilities with a stunning 8-inch 1920×1200 IPS [WUXGA](#) touchscreen display and ergonomic controls to deliver a high-performance Software Defined Radio (SDR) with a traditional radio interface.

It delivers unmatched band awareness from an integrated display while providing an external connection to monitor compatible 1900×1200 resolution on a monitor for maximum spectral visibility.

Influenced by top contest/DX operators, its symmetrical and independent dual VFO controls are strategically placed to provide maximum productivi-

ty for all types of operation. It’s completely self-contained so just plug it in and operate – no PC, network or learning curve required. Vibroplex

With a PC, laptop, or Mac client you can utilize up to two 7 MHz spectrum/waterfall displays and independent receivers to revolutionize your view of the bands. Its two receivers can be placed simultaneously on any band and mode with instant QSY between VFOs. Digital mode operation is a dream with no sound cards, cables, or boxes needed.

FlexRadio’s industry-leading SmartSDR™ software offers compatibility across the entire FLEX-8000 Signature Series family to deliver continuous leveraged software enhancement. And you can use the latest SmartLink™ technology to access your radio virtually anywhere from any SmartSDR™ compatible client with only a login and password—even your iPhone”.

So the FlexRadio platform continues to grow and evolve—ever creating new rigs to tempt buyers to the latest and greatest in this technology. It’s way out of the scope of this announcement to cover all the details of this amazing new series from Flex, so here are some links you can view at your leisure:

[FULL specifications in PDF format](#)

[SmartSDR Software User Guide v3.x](#)

■ -editor

[Click to visit the Manufacturer's Site](#)



# COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

## A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

**THE DRAKE 2B RECEIVER** is a true classic within the history of amateur radio equipment, the R.L. [Drake 2B](#) receiver was first introduced in 1961, the year your editor was born. It was an improvement over the older [Drake 2A](#) and came with some pretty significant new features. At the time it was introduced, the 2B was priced at \$279, which inflates to well over a grand today, certainly making it a high-priced addition for any shack at the time.

The [R.L. Drake Company](#) was founded by Robert L. Drake in 1943. It started out designing equipment for both government and commercial applications. The production of amateur radio equipment in the latter part of the 1950s was quite a change. The Drake 2A, launched in 1959 was one of the company's early forays into this market. However, it was its replacement, the Drake 2B, launched a scant two years later that would really set the standard.

When it hit the ham market, the 10-tube Drake 2B receiver quickly became renowned for its selectivity, sensitivity, and stability—especially over the 2A that came before it.

These three characteristics were very much in demand amongst hams then just as they are today. Coverage was ham-bands only, 160 to 10 meters. Unlike the 2A, the design of the 2B offered a crystal-controlled first local-oscillator, which really

improved upon the overall frequency stability. The 2A first oscillator was much cruder in operation, and prone to drift.

Further enhancements included three IF stages against only two in the 2A, resulting in better filtering and improved sensitivity. Many users of the day in product reviews make a point of the big improvement with weak signals over the 2A.





# COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

## A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

(Continued from page 66)

Lastly, the Drake 2AC crystal calibrator was offered to provide the user with easy dial settings. I'm not sure how many were sold, but based on the high prices they tend to fetch today on eBay, I think they are pretty rare and weren't big sellers.

The Drake 2B was very well received in the ham radio market, and despite its somewhat steep retail price, it sold very well. The compact size made it a popular choice for Field Day and other portable operations as well.

The Drake company never made a companion receiver for the 2B. However the next in the 2-series lineage was the 1967 release of the 2C which was offered as a perfect mate for the new 2NT "Novice Transmitter" (featured in [The Bark May edition](#), p. 35)

To this day, collectors and active "Boat Anchor" hams seek out the venerable 2B to put in their collections and actively use on the air. The 2B still holds its own on the air even in these modern times.

-Dave W7UUU



LEO I. MEYERSON, W0GFQ, SAYS:  
President

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Q-2

127

1962 QST ad for the Drake 2B from  
World Radio Labs



# ADAM'S TECH TALK

Adam Barbera W2NCC

## SPECTRUM ANALYZERS AND FREQUENCY VISUALIZATION

[Spectrum analyzers](#) have revolutionized telecommunications and radio broadcasting. But what exactly is a spectrum analyzer? It's an essential tool for analyzing and visualizing the frequency components of a signal. Engineers, researchers, and ham radio enthusiasts use spectrum analyzers to examine the content of various signals, including radio frequency (RF), microwave, and audio signals. In simple terms, it allows us to visualize different frequencies in the spectrum.

For ham radio operators, one key application of a spectrum analyzer is tuning repeater [duplexers](#). Duplexers enable radio communications to simultaneously receive and transmit signals on different frequencies. Spectrum analyzers display real-time signal information, allowing users to observe changes as they adjust the tuning rods on each cavity of the duplexer. This real-time display shows the notch or pass frequencies, enabling precise adjustments. Fine-tuning the duplexer maximizes the isolation between the receiver and the transmitter, ensuring optimal performance.

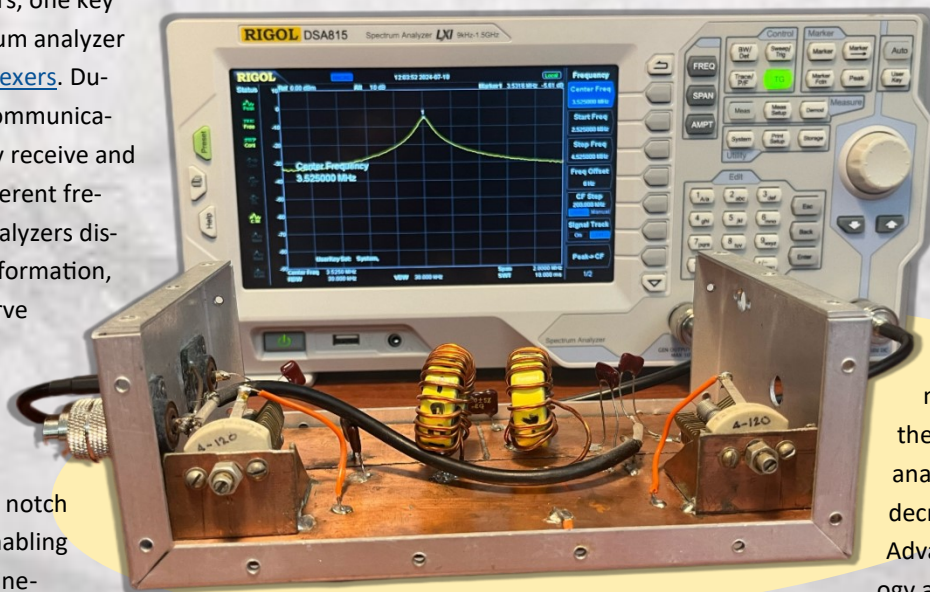
Another use for a spectrum analyzer is tuning passive ham radio filters, specifically bandpass filters (BPFs). These filters are crucial in ham radio stations for improving receiver performance by filtering out unwanted signals and interference. BPFs help reduce noise and mitigate issues like receiver front-end overload caused by strong RF signals from other stations. This prevents saturation of the receiver's input stage, allowing weaker signals to be received clearly.

The Elsie tool by Tonne Software is a modeling program for electrical filter design and analysis. Recently, I used this software to model an 80-meter bandpass filter. Using parts I had around the shack, I built a prototype to conduct some experiments. The spectrum analyzer measures the frequency response of the filter. By examining the signal amplitudes at different frequencies, I verified that the filter allowed the 80-meter band through while blocking other frequencies. Observing the spectrum enabled me to fine-tune the inductors and capacitors to achieve the best performance.

Spectrum analyzers are powerful tools for visualizing and analyzing frequencies. They have a wide range of applications and are more accessible than ever, thanks to devices like the Rigol DSA815-TG. You might think such a sophisticated device must be expensive, but the pricing for spectrum analyzers has significantly decreased in recent years. Advancements in technology and increased market competition have made quality spectrum analyzers

more affordable. As a result, a broader audience, including engineers and radio enthusiasts, can now explore the fascinating world of frequencies. Whether you're tuning a repeater duplexer or adjusting a ham radio HF filter, a spectrum analyzer might just be the tool you need.

-Article & photo by Adam W2NCC



Adam W2NCC's Rigol SA815-TG Spectrum Analyzer at work  
Photo by W2NCC





# ANTENNA TIME

## Notes, tips and projects

By W7UUU



### THE MOXON ANTENNA: A compact take on the Yagi

The Moxon antenna in recent years has become something of a staple in the world of amateur radio. The design traces its origins to the ingenuity of Les Moxon, **G6XN** (SK), an esteemed British amateur radio operator and engineer. This rectangular, horizontally polarized antenna, designed in the mid-20th century, has become synonymous with simplicity, efficiency, and effectiveness in the ham radio community. It's a lightweight parasitic-array known for its simple construction and impressive front-to-back ratio.

Les Moxon's journey into antenna design was driven by a quest for performance optimization and ease of construction. His pioneering work in the 1950s and 60s laid the foundation for what would later be known as the Moxon Rectangle (or simply "Moxon" for short). The Moxon antenna was first introduced to the amateur radio world through his seminal book, [HF Antennas for All Locations](#), published in 1982. This book provides detailed insights into his designs and methodologies, emphasizing

the importance of practical, easily constructed antennas for enthusiasts of all skill levels. It's still in print to this day.

The Moxon antenna's design is deceptively simple: two elements arranged in a rectangular shape with the driven element

and the reflector positioned closely but not touching. This compact design offers several advantages over traditional beam antennas, including a reduced physical footprint, lower weight, and improved wind resistance. The Moxon antenna achieves a high front-to-back ratio and a low SWR ([Standing Wave Ratio](#)) across a wide bandwidth, making it an attractive option for amateur radio operators seeking efficient and reliable performance.

One of the really cool innovations of the Moxon antenna is its ability to provide directional gain while maintaining a relatively small size. This makes it particularly suitable for operators with limited space or those who require portable solutions for field operations such as a POTA activation. Due to its inherent broadband characteristics, the Moxon design also minimizes the need for complex tuning, allowing for straightforward construction and easy adjustments, even for novice builders.

The Moxon antenna's popularity surged in the 1990s as more hams recognized its benefits and commercial vendors started offering them pre-built. The advent of computer-aided design and modeling software (such as [EZNEC](#) and others) further propelled its adoption, enabling hams to simulate and optimize their Moxon designs with precision. This technological advancement allowed for experimentation with different materials and configurations, leading to the creation of Moxon antennas for various frequency bands, from HF to VHF and UHF. The design lends itself to being built using aluminum tubing or with wires on PVC spreaders (see photo on the next page of such a build).

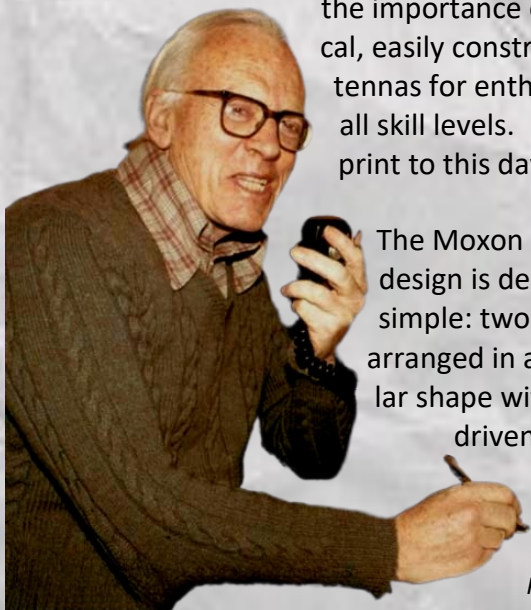


Photo of Les Moxon **G6XN**



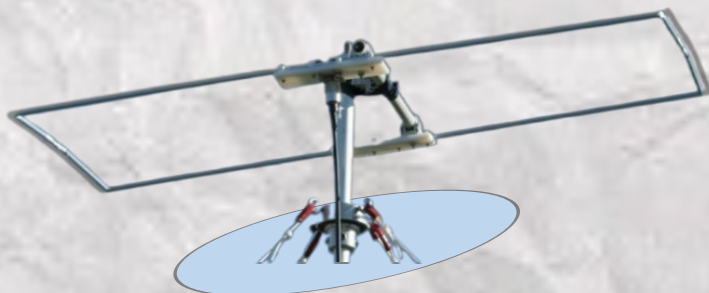
# ANTENNA TIME

## Notes, tips and projects

By W7UUU

Today, the Moxon antenna is still a pretty popular choice among hams worldwide. Its enduring appeal lies in its blend of simplicity, efficiency, and versatility. Les Moxon's legacy continues to inspire generations of hams, encouraging them to explore the fascinating world of antenna design and experimentation. Whether for home use or portable operations (even for POTA use), the Moxon antenna stands as a testament to the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the amateur radio community.

-Dave W7UUU

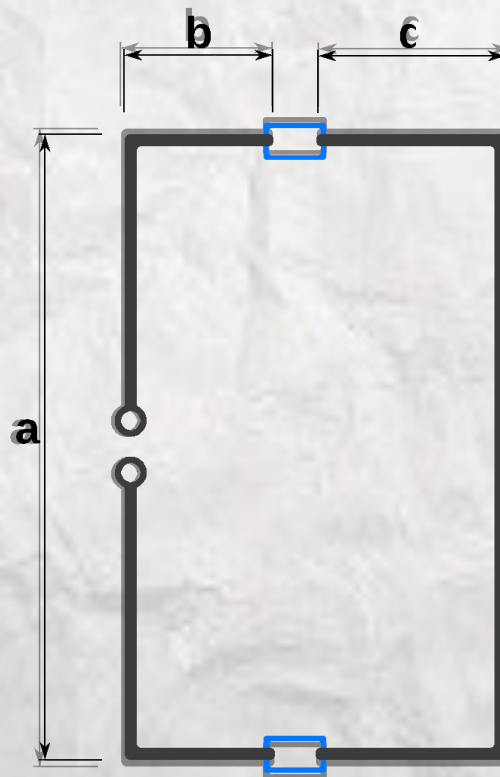


Typical tubular Moxon beam antenna. Feed point clearly visible where the coax cable attaches. Photo by IZ1KSW



Example of a wire-based Moxon for 20 meters, using wires for the elements, supported by PVC spreaders.

Photo: Wikipedia



*Layout of Moxon antenna; radiates strongest toward the left*

Scale factor  $\lambda$  = free-space wavelength  
 $= + c_0 / f = + 299.79 \text{ m} / f [\text{in MHz}]$

Approximate dimensions:  $a \approx 0.375 \cdot \lambda$ ;  $b \approx 0.0575 \cdot \lambda$ ;  $c \approx 0.0675 \cdot \lambda$ ; driven element  $a + 2b \approx 0.49 \cdot \lambda$ ; reflector  $a + 2c \approx 0.51 \cdot \lambda$ ;

expected gain  $\approx 5 \text{ dBi}$ ; front-to-back ratio  $\approx 20 \text{ dB}$

Scale factor  $\lambda$  = free-space wavelength  
 $= + c_0 / f = + 299.79 \text{ m} / f [\text{in MHz}]$

expected gain  $\approx 5 \text{ dBi}$ ; front-to-back ratio  $\approx 20 \text{ dB}$ .

Source: Wikipedia

Further Reading:

[20m Moxon Antenna Portable Build](#) by KL1ZIX / KE0OYJ





### Clever trick—from the Olden Days!

**HERE'S A COOL TRICK** that's been around forever, oft repeated by old timers. Hey—it's all over the internet, so it must be true, right? I first heard this in 1975...

### NO VHF SWR METER—NO PROBLEM! USE A CB METER!

"I use a CB SWR meter to check 2M antennas all the time. There is a trick to it however.

If all you want to do is check SWR on your 2M antenna, you don't necessarily have to buy a dedicated VHF/UHF SWR meter. What I keep in my tool bag for that is a cheapie \$5 hamfest special CB SWR meter. They really don't work well on 2M but there's a trick you can do that will net a reasonably accurate SWR reading on 2M with one of these meters. What you do is connect up the meter as usual, key the rig with the switch in the forward power position, key the mic and set the adjustment for full scale. Now, without touching anything, swap the coax connections so that the rig is connected to the "ANT" side of the meter, and the antenna is connected to the "XCVR" side. The reading you see on the meter will be very close to your real SWR. The closer to 1:1 your SWR is, the more accurate it will be. It would be more convenient to have a real SWR meter or antenna analyzer if you do a lot of testing, but for a quick antenna check after a mobile install or whatever, the \$5 CB meters work OK". *As found on the web, posted in numerous versions by several posters—but this succinct version goes to Dan KB6NU* ■ -editor

### Upcoming Ham Fests in the area

**August 3. Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) ARRL Idaho State Convention**, Post Falls, ID. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* [www.k7id.org](http://www.k7id.org)

**August 9-11. Pacific NW DX Convention**. Everett, WA *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* <https://pacificnwdxconvention.com/>

**August 17. 15th Annual Tailgate Swapmeet**. Mini-Cassia Amateur Radio Club, Inc. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Minidoka County Fairgrounds, 085 East Baseline Road, Highway 25, Rupert, Idaho. <http://www.minicassia.club>

**August 18. Puget Sound Antique Radio Association Swapmeet.** <https://www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/> [Flyer in PDF.](#)

**September 22. Delta Amateur Radio Society CommFest**. Delta, BC. [https://hambone.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=2362](https://hambone.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=2362)

**October 3-4-5. Microwave Update/Western Canada Weak Signal Association/Pacific Northwest VHF Society Conference**. Vancouver, BC. <http://www.pnwvhfs.org/> <https://wcwsa.ca/>. [Flyer in PDF.](#)

**October 19. Kitsap County ARC Hamfest**. Bremerton, WA. <https://kcarc.org/hamfest/>

Listings courtesy: Lynn Burlingame [www.N7CFO.com](http://www.N7CFO.com)

Got a cool shop tip? Send it in!



# HAM TECH 101

## Useful tech info for newer hams and old

### Q-CODES AND WHAT THEY'RE ALL ABOUT

By Jim Peisker, **AF5NP**

As most reading this probably already know, ham radio vocabulary includes plenty of jargon and lingo. However, most of the time it is best to not use too much ham-speak on the air, since plain language is preferred for voice modes (phone). But in reality you still hear many code words and abbreviations being used on the airwaves regardless.

2015-G1B07: What are the restrictions on the use of abbreviations or procedural signals in the Amateur Service? ***They may be used if they do not obscure the meaning of a message***

You will run across many terms on the air as well as in books and magazines and perhaps in emails that are cryptic to the new or prospective ham.

To help you with this we will present the topic of Q-codes here—likely a ham term you’ve heard or read but aren’t sure what it’s all about. The Q-code is a standardized collection of three-letter codes, all of which start with the letter Q, where each code has a particular meaning. These brevity codes were originally developed for commercial radiotelegraph use but were quickly adopted by amateur radio operators (as well as aeronautical and maritime users as well).

Although Q codes were created when radio used Morse code exclusively, they continued to be employed after the introduction of voice transmissions.

Listed below are ten Q-codes the *average ham* is most likely to hear (in the author’s opinion), along with their meaning and common usage:

**QRL**—is the frequency in use?

**QRM**—Man-made interference, specifically interference from other stations. Think “M” for “man” as in another operator, who is interfering.

**QRN**—Natural interference, typically static or crashing from thunderstorms. “N” for “natural”

**QRP**—Low power transmit, generally 5W or less for CW and digital modes, 10 watts PEP for SSB

**QRT**—Stopping transmission or shutting down station.

**QRZ**—Who is calling me?

**QSB**—Signal fading

**QSL**—I acknowledge receipt—think “Roger”; also a physical or electronic confirmation of a contact.

**QSO**—Conversation, radio contact and exchange. The short name for having a contact with another ham

**QSY**—Change frequency.

**QTH**—Location—most often referenced as your city and state

You should be familiar with at least these and perhaps some others as well. Comprehensive lists of Q-codes can be found [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

T2B10-2014: Which Q signal indicates that you are receiving interference from other stations?

**QRM**

(Continued on page 73)



# HAM TECH 101

## Useful tech info for newer hams and old

T2B11-2014: Which Q signal indicates that you are changing frequency?  
**QSY**

2015-G2C09: What does the Q signal "QSL" mean?  
**I acknowledge receipt**

2015-G2C10: What does the Q signal "QRN" mean?  
**I am troubled by static**

2015-G2C11: What does the Q signal "QRV" mean?  
**I am ready to receive messages**

### Note that Q-codes can be a statement, or a question.

For example—if in Morse (CW) I pick a frequency to call CQ, and send "QRL?" I'm saying, "Is this frequency in use?". If some other operator hears me, and he's in fact already in a QSO (contact) with someone that I can't hear, he could send "R R QRL" - making it a statement. Or he may just say "yes".

If in a QSO on CW you didn't quite make out the city and state of the other operator, you could send "QTH?" and he would then know you wanted a repeat of his location, so he might send "QTH IS BURLEY, WA".

As has been mentioned, the Q-codes were developed for use in Morse Code. But sometimes you will hear them on the air on phone (SSB or FM). Many hams tend to frown on this use though. Since you are using voice, you can just say "received" or "roger", instead of saying "Cue Ess Ell", although that's a common practice.

There's not much to the whole Q-code system once you get used to it—and on CW it can be a real time saver depending on the application. The main point here is not for you to learn Q-codes to use them, but to understand them when you inevitably hear them.

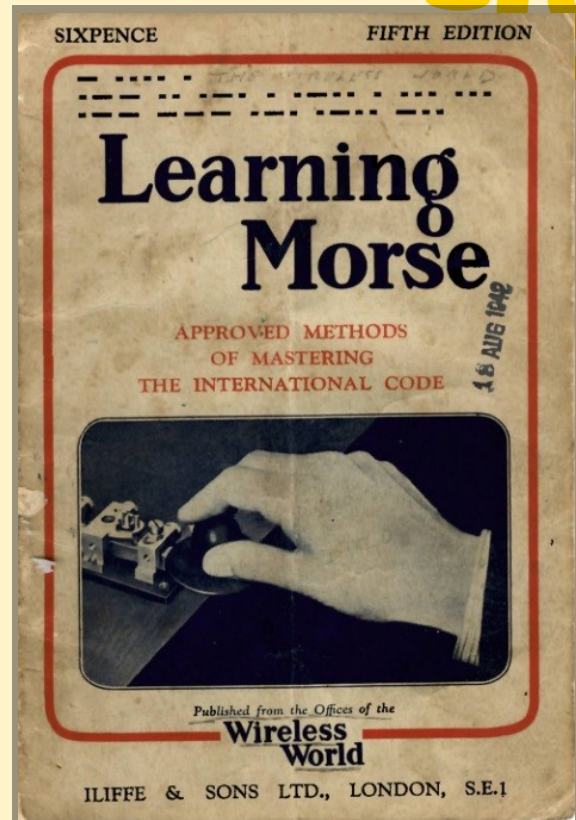
That's all for now so 73 and I'll be... QRT.

-Jim Peisker **AF5NP**

Additional content added by Editor

This column is reprinted with permission of Jim **AF5NP** from his blog [www.NEWHAMS.info](http://www.NEWHAMS.info)

References to FCC question numbers may be out of date but the content will still be accurate.





# GEAR

Guest Columnist: Dave Jensen W7DGJ



**ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH** the ultra-small radios operating on what is called "[Meshtastic](#)" software? Maybe you've tried one of these gadgets . . . they operate Stateside on our 900 MHz ham band (and on other frequencies depending upon country) but are so low-powered that they do not require a license. That Meshtastic radio sitting on my windowsill puts out about one-tenth of a watt.

Geez, you might say, what in the world can you do with 100mW? Well, I was surprised to find out that significant

distances can be achieved with one of these very inexpensive devices. Of course, they remind me of my first 2-way radio, a Radio Shack walkie-talkie that came at Christmas one year. Those operated on the same power output (which the FCC didn't care about).

Imagine what would have developed back

then if every child's walkie-talkie had been a repeater? If you wanted to message that buddy of yours across town (or 100 miles away), you could still connect with him or her because those cheap radios between the two of you had each in fact joined a mesh of

connected radios. That's the way each of those

Meshtastic radios operates (short for Mesh and Fantastic).

It's an open-source development project that uses unique concepts and that operates with [LoRa](#) ("Long

Range") technology. LoRa is based on spread-spectrum RF that dates back to inventors [Hedy Lamarr](#) and George Antheil around the time of

WWII.

When I first read about these tiny text-only radios a couple of years ago I declined to buy one, even though the cost (in ham radio terms) was ridiculously low. Most of these radios are supplied as tiny experimental boards at a cost of \$35 to \$70.





# GEAR

Guest Columnist: Dave Jensen



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Dave Jensen, W7DGJ**, was first licensed in 1966. Originally **WN7VDY** (and later **WA7VDY**), Dave operated on 40 and 80 meter CW with a shack that consisted primarily of Heathkit equipment. Dave loved

radio so much he went off to college to study broadcasting and came out with a BS in Communications from Ohio University (Athens, OH). He worked his way through a number of audio electronics companies after graduation, including the professional microphone business for Audio-Technica. He was later licensed as **W7DGJ** out of Scottsdale, Arizona, where he ran an executive recruitment practice (CareerTrax Inc.) for several decades. Jensen has published articles in magazines dealing with science and engineering. His column "Tooling Up" ran for 20 years in the website of the leading science journal, *SCIENCE*, and his column called ***Trials and Errors: Ham Life with an Amateur*** continues to be a popular read each month on QRZ.com

Read Dave's column at:

<https://www.qrz.com/trials-and-errors>

Not many of them had been sold back then, and without others in your region to "[form a mesh](#)" it's a lonely hobby. But it resonated with many hams, and there are now dozens of small companies selling either the radios or accessories like antennas and cases to go with these home-built gadgets.

The two shown in the photo are my smallest -- fully loaded [Heltec devices](#) I bought on Etsy, arriving with the firmware pre-installed and in a 3D printed case. The antennas included by these China-based manufacturers all have to be replaced, as they operate at about a 3.5 to 1 SWR. For \$10-15 you can buy an antenna with proper tuning for the 900 MHz band.

While tiny RF alone is not going to connect you to the far side of the world, it will keep you in touch with your local world, no matter what happens. Whether it's political upheaval, wars, an alien attack or a zombie apocalypse, these things have you covered. They are particularly useful in situations where you are going off-grid for pleasure or in emergencies.

73 for now.

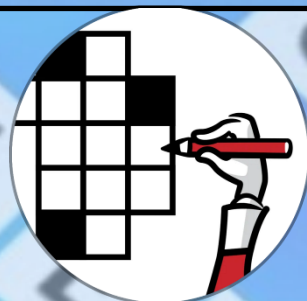
-Dave **W7DGJ**





# FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



**Find The Ham Radio Modes! Print this page to play!**

F R E R U Q Y O G U L 8 Q 8 N Q L O L R X E R F  
 E 8 A E B K 8 W W G K L E F D E M L C A O O S R  
 X K F W D M R B K N L Y W O W W G Q R H N D S E  
 N E F R E Q U E N C Y S H I F T K E Y I N G T Q  
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 T E D G N X F D N A B E D I S E L G N I S 8 I E  
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 O N F H P C H Y N E O F D W E Q C I S K S B A U

DMR    NXDN    FREEDV    FREQUENCYMODULATION    ECHOLINK  
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# CLOSING REMARKS



W7DK

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Logger's Bark is the official publication of the Radio Club of Tacoma and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

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We WELCOME contributions of articles, guest editorials, blurbs, Hints-and-Kinks, shack photos, QSL cards, memorable contacts, anything of interest to your fellow members. Submit your materials via email to: [loggersbark@gmail.com](mailto:loggersbark@gmail.com) or via US mail to PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411 Nichrome

## RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA REPEATERS

Central Tacoma 2m: 147.28 + PL Tone 103.5  
Central Tacoma 70cm: 440.625 + PL Tone 103.5  
Crawford Mountain: 147.380 + PL Tone 103.5  
North Tacoma: 145.21 - PL Tone 141.3

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- Fees are applicable for the calendar year: January to December
- Lifetime [membership](#) is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime [memberships](#) are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.
- Visit [www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org) For the latest and most current information on events and activities

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HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

[loggersbark@W7DK.org](mailto:loggersbark@W7DK.org)





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

Radio Club of Tacoma  
BOD Meeting Minutes  
June 5th, 2024

Meeting called to order at \_\_\_\_\_ 1900 \_\_\_\_\_.

## Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC

**NOTE:** These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? ☐ Yes ☐

**Motion for approval of Minutes as previously distributed:** Mike W7MKE made the motion. Doug AB7DG seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## Silent Key or Illness?

Bob Hewlett became SK on May 24, 2024. A card was sent to his wife Greta Hewlett. Mike and Joy Isakson visited Greta on Memorial Day. No funeral scheduled at this point.  
A card was sent to Dan Vacanti's family. His daughter was in the hospital, and she is going home soon because she is doing much better now.

## New Business/ Presentation

We received some communications from Tacoma's Landmarks Preservation Commission. Mr. Lafreniere from this commission may be visiting us during our BOD meeting.

Here is his intended agenda:

Marshall McClintock, a member of Historic Tacoma's board of directors, will be talking with the Radio Club's board of directors briefly about:

What Historic Tacoma is,

The difference between the National, State and Local Historic Registers,

What the process looks like when a building is nominated and considered for addition to a Historic Register,

The benefits and financial resources that are available for landmarked buildings,





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

The myths and misconceptions that are sometimes associated with being listed on a Historic Register, Q and A.

Q & A Session:

A question was asked by Mike W7MKE concerning a onetime amortization / reduction of property taxes offered through this program. Adam, W2NCC asked about the possibility of the program extending to the next owners of our clubhouse. The listing goes along with the house, not the current owner(s).

Additional research from Board member Doug Schafer AB7DG showed this:

At this evening's meeting, it was asked if RCT might qualify for a property tax exemption, since it has a 501(c)(3) federal income tax exemption. I am confident that RCT does not qualify for any state property tax exemption. I have skimmed through the many WA state property tax statutes providing specific exemption categories at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.36>. And I have carefully reviewed the WA Dept. of Revenue rule that interprets/explains RCW [84.36.030](https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=458-16-210) that exempts certain types of non-profit organizations, that rule being at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=458-16-210>. RCT does not fit any of the exemption's categories.

Doug Schafer, AB7DG (attorney)

Thanks Doug! (Secretary)

## Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

Not much to report this month. Almost nothing has come into the mailbox lately. We did have three new member applications which have been sent to Mike W7XH for processing and the British RAD-com magazine came in. We also have some bills for the treasurer, and the usual bank statements.

Some questions arose about the BOD meeting and special meeting minutes, which were sent out within days of the meetings. The secretary would like to ask folks who are interested in receiving these messages to let him know if nothing has been received in a timely manner, probably at least a week after the meeting.

The secretary will be glad to send any missing messages to the individual who requested them.

## Treasurer's Report (Steve AF7YD)

Steve reports that all our funds have been moved from Chase to US Bank. He also reported on a possible variation on account balances that may be just a glitch in the matrix. Reports to come when Steve has straightened it all out.

## Committee Reports

### Membership (Mike W7XH)

Mike reports we have 323 members. One of the new applications received was from a ham in Menlo Park CA, and another from Port Gamble WA.

Mike is researching more hams in the neighborhood based on ARRL data. 34 May birthday cards were sent out.

75 recruitment cards for May were sent to local hams. They were selected from a WWA ARRL list provided by Lynn Burlingame N7CFO. Mike is going to send out June cards soon.

June birthday cards will be mailed on 6-5-2024. Mike showed us a sample of the recruitment card that he is





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

sending out to potential new members. Very nice card which welcomed the new folks and invited them to join us at the clubhouse. He also includes a link to the new Loggers Bark on our website.

Mike W7XH presented two different versions of the new membership form.

One is representative of the five counties option discussed on May 18th. The other Mike is asking the board to reconsider an in-state and out of state option. Both options within Washington would allow associates, for only unlicensed individuals without voting privileges. It is referred to as Associate 1.

Associate 2 would be for ALL others outside Washington state licensed or unlicensed individuals without voting privileges.

Both Associate 1 and Associate 2 would be priced at \$20 annually. This change would affect only 1 within Washington. We have 6 current members out of state (2 in AZ, 2 in OR, 1 in TX, and 1 in HI) that could/would change their membership type.

This would greatly simplify membership annex revisions and tracking people by counties.

If this would require a notice to all members of this change (Associate 2) then an email blast would be good so that it could be discussed and passed at the next board meeting.

My recommendation would be for Associate 2. It removes confusion, makes modifications to membership annex much easier, eliminates tracking counties.

Adam W2NCC made a motion to amend the previously made amendment to make Washington State unlicensed non-voting membership be \$20. Licensed or unlicensed out of state also \$20.

Motion to amend approved

## Library (Doug AD7AV)

No report

## Training (Stephan AD7AB)

Class this weekend June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2024.

## VE (John AC7WW)

Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> your VE Team graded 15 exams. Three Technicians joined the Amateur Radio Service, two candidates passed element 2 and three to become General class operators, one candidate upgraded to Extra. Two candidates did not earn an initial license or an upgrade.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

Manny AD7MA, Rich KK7VH, Rob K7TGU, David K7FI, Stephen, AD7AB.





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

The next scheduled test session is Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## Info Tech and Website (Randy WB4SPB)

All systems are operating within normal and expected parameters. Randy pointed out that the weekly groups.io announcement for the Tuesday night net script needed some updating. Adam, W2NCC said that he will update the net script and the info on the website indicating the correct net manager and other details that need updating.

## HF Operations (Phil K7PIA)

Everything in the HF room was reported as working well. They are being used every weekend by club members. Field Day 22-23 June.

The new equipment still pending is the Palstar amp. Checking with both Palstar and DX-engineering indicates that the new shipping date is early July. The Palstar tuner is currently in the HF room, and it fits the spot intended for it.

Phil reports that the filters are installed on the Flex 6600 and indications are that they work very well.

Phil also suggested that if anyone wants to get trained on the new equipment, that they just contact anyone on the HF team.

## Tower (Nick K7MO)

No report

## Repeater Ops (AL N7OMS)

Sam N9MII reports that the Bates repeater is operational.

Bates Repeater is online

- o Antenna reads an SWR in the 1.4:1 range.
- o 70 watts out of the transmitter.
- o Still needs some work.
- o Other repeaters
- o We have reserve MTR2000's
- o We are looking at equipment to take the .28 repeater digital.
- o SeaPac Ham convention
- o We made contact with the ICS Controller folks, who also run the Open Repeater project. We bought a few MTR2000s controller interface boards from ICS.

## Facilities Management (Adam W2NCC)

President Mike W7XTZ received the following question about the clubhouse from Steve Blacksten; Please the add property management discussion points:

- Women's room toilet may properly be called a "child's toilet".
- There may not be enough handicapped parking spaces.





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

Steve Blacksten: Since you brought these items up can you attend the board meeting this coming Wednesday, if not in person via Zoom? Steve did not attend the meeting.

This is going to be investigated by Adam W2NCC. It is suspected that this is a non-issue because the toilets / commodes in the clubhouse are ADA approved. Dan KD7SV expounded on the handicapped parking by Federal Specification, and we are good on that issue too. After this discussion, the message was noted and then dismissed as not applicable.

## Property Management (Red WB7EC)

\$360 funds were taken in by PMT in May.

June 2024: Property Management team requests permission to dispose/recycle the following excess items from Board of Directors of the Radio Club of Tacoma. The Motion was made by Red, Adam seconded.

Red suggested that the raffles be started again in August of 2024.

1. RCT 4287 Midnight Design SRD CUBE SN: MUSEUM
2. RCT 4288 Hallicrafters HF RX SX-111
3. RCT 4289 EF Johnson Match Box Tuner
4. RCT 4290 HP Signal generator 8640B
5. RCT 4291 EF Johnson HF Amp Thunder Bolt
6. RCT 4292 National RX NC-183
7. RCT 4293 Kenwood HF XCVR TS-520S
8. RCT 4294 Heathkit Transmitter Apache TX-1
9. RCT 4295 Hammarlund HF Receiver HQ-180
10. RCT 4296 Hallicrafters HF Transmitter HT-32
11. RCT 4297 Hammarlund HF RX HQ-140X
12. RCT 4298 EF Johnson Match Box Tuner
13. RCT 4299 Hallicrafters HF Transmitter HT-37
14. RCT 4300 EF Johnson Viking Valiant
15. RCT 4301 Hammarlund HF Receiver HQ-170A
16. RCT 44302 Heathkit HF RX Mohawk
17. RCT 4303 Hammarlund HF RX HX-50A
18. RCT 4304 Hammarlund HF RX HQ-150





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

19. RCT 4305 EF Johnson HF TX Viking Valiant
20. RCT 4306 Hammarlund HF RX HQ-129X
21. RCT 44307 Johnson Ranger AM Transmitter
22. RCT 4308 Hammarlund HF RX HQ-140X
23. RCT 4309 Heathkit HF TX DX-100
24. RCT 4310 National HF RXX NC-300
25. RCT 4311 HP Elite Computer Windows 11
26. RCT 4312 Icom HF XCVR IC-7300 SN: 2043185
27. RCT 4313 Expert Electronics SDRR Receiver MB-1 SN: EED10261800144
28. RCT 4314 SRD CUBE Kit not operational
29. RCT 4315 Heathkit Power supply PS-4
30. RCT 4316 Heathkit Capacitor Checker C-3
31. RCT 4317 Henry Radio XCVR Tempo One
32. RCT 4318 LDG Autotuner AT-100PRO II to POTA
34. RCT 4320 HP Signal Generator/Freq meter 8640B
35. RCT 4321 James Millen Antenna Tuner 92200 # 653
36. RCT 4322 Astron Power Supply RS-35A
37. RCT 4323 Hardrock HF Amp Hardrock-50 # 1392

## Museum (Dan KD7SV)

Not too much to report, Warren NG7G carried the Thunderbolt up the stairs. The SX-101 works OK. HT-37 paired with the SX-101 needs some work. Dan will be working on this in future. The two boat anchors mentioned will be used in future. Dan will continue the triage in the garage on the rest of the donated boat anchors. Dan thanked Randy WB4SPB, Red WB7EC and Adam W2NCC for their help with the triage and equipment moving problems.

## Wednesday Workshop (Randy WB4SPB)

TBD

## General Meeting (Dave W7UUU)

Dave says: Gents & Ladies - I think the June program should just be "getting used to the new meeting space". Discussions have already happened, resulting in a decision to start having our general meeting there on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Location: **Eagles South Tacoma, 7037 S. Pine Street Tacoma, WA**. Doors open at noon, meeting starts at 1:00PM and ends at 3:00PM.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

President Mike mentioned that Dave is still looking for someone to take the general meeting job off his hands. Also still need assistant Treasurer and PMT members.

## Unfinished Business:

**Mike Drorbaugh** had continuing Field Day discussions.

Mike talked about our field day equipment test / setup meeting that went down Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup>. We need a microphone for the 756 PIII. Adam W2NCC volunteered that he has one. Mike did accept that microphone for field day operations. Doug AB7DG also offered a microphone, but it turned out not to be an Icom mic.

Mike made a motion to buy one large silver backed tarp at Harbor Freight for up to \$140 to cover the big white tent. Paul W7PFU seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dates to remember: June 9<sup>th</sup> at Dave W7UUU's house. Set up of rocket launchers will be covered during the live training at Dave's house. Meet Mike at the club house at 0900 to convoy out to Dave's house. This event is by invitation only due to time and space constraints.

## Adam Barbera had these items:

SeaPac table. Adam W2NCC has a table available and available for the members to use along with him. In addition, RCT will also had a table, there was plenty of opportunity to sell some stuff. It was a huge success for those club members that attended.

Benevity update. Major progress Steve AF7YD is getting that set up and Dave Ashley W7GEL is also following up with this. There is a potential for the club to start making money with this program starting during field day.

General meeting location Eagles Club. Going to start June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Adam visited with Dave W7UUU audio / visual equipment works OK.

## New Business?

Adam W2NCC bought 3 Heathkit SB-200's two are in good shape, the other needs work. Adam is offering club members a chance to get their hands into the repair process...

Sam N9MII had an announcement about CQNW for an upcoming weekend with their campers where they are going to do a fox hunt. They will want to borrow some equipment from RCT for this.

## Activity Reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements.

Adjournment at: \_\_\_\_\_ 2045 \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

Attachments:

Attendance roster, Financial statements.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
BOD Meeting  
June 5th, 2024

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	<b>ATTENDED at Clubhouse</b>	Only non BOD members BOD shown at top of minutes.	Applies to ZOOM and at clubhouse.
1	David Stilwell	AC7KP	2657
2	Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF	2308
3	Marshall McClintock	Visitor	
4	Michael LaFreniere	Visitor	
5	Steve Dunkleberger	Visitor	
	<b>Attended via ZOOM</b>		
1	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	2640
2	David Ashley	W7GEL	2987
3	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050

2:12 PM		Radio Club of Tacoma 2017 & Forward							
06/07/24		Field Day Transaction Detail Report YTD							
Accrual Basis		January through December 2024							
Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Class	Clr	Split	Amount
Jan - Dec 24									
Bill	04/19/2024	AIER ...	Nick Winter	AIER 20240406 2 EA AB-577 Antenn...	65050 - Pro...	Field Day (Pgm):FD Equipment & Sup...		20...	
Jan - Dec 24									

REDACTED



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Zoom Out

1:42 PM

06/07/24

Accrual Basis

## Radio Club of Tacoma 2017 & Forward Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet), Monthly

As of May 31, 2024

May 31, 24

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

#### Checking/Savings

10060 · US Bank Ck Primary 6337

10061 · USBank Savings MM 0368

10062 · USBank Checking 2245 internet

10070 · US Bank Sav 3628

Total Checking/Savings

Total Current Assets

### TOTAL ASSETS

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

#### Accounts Payable

20000 · Accounts Payable (Credit Purch) (Tacks Credit Purchases)

Total Accounts Payable

Total Current Liabilities

Total Liabilities

#### Equity

30000 · Opening Balance Equity (Opening balances during setup post to this account. The balance of this account should

32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets (Other Income)

Net Income

Total Equity

### TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

REDACTED



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

<div> <div>Automatic Zoom</div> </div>	
<div> <div>1:55 PM</div> <div>06/07/24</div> <div>Accrual Basis</div> </div>	<div> <div>Radio Club of Tacoma 2017 &amp; Forward</div> <div>Statement of Financial Income&amp;Expense(P&amp;L), =ThisFisYrToDate</div> <div>January through May 2024</div> </div>
<div> <div>Ordinary Income/Expense</div> <div>Income</div> <div>45000 · Interest-Savings, CD</div> <div>45000* · Investments (Revenue from investments in cash, securities, and property)</div> <div>45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD (Interest received from savings, CDs, and other short-term investments)</div> <div>Total 45000* · Investments (Revenue from investments in cash, securities, and property)</div> <div>47100 · Other Income (Rebates, Refunds)</div> <div>47200 · Program Income (RCT Activities)</div> <div>47300 · Member Dues (Member dues that compare reasonably with membership benefits available, whether used or not)</div> <div>Total Income</div> <div>Gross Profit</div> <div>Expense</div> <div>60100 · Business Expenses (Core) (Business Expenses of maintaining the organization's business entity, especially in a</div> <div>60110 · Utilities, Phone, Internet Conn</div> <div>60130 · Insurance - Combined (Combined Property, Liability and Equipment)</div> <div>60170 · Taxes</div> <div>60190 · Web Site</div> <div>Total 60100 · Business Expenses (Core) (Business Expenses of maintaining the organization's business entity, especially</div> <div>60900 · Business Expenses (Expenses of creating and maintaining the organization's business entity)</div> <div>60920 · Business Registration Fees (Permits, registrations, licenses, moving, royalties, bank charges, credit card fees)</div> <div>Total 60900 · Business Expenses (Expenses of creating and maintaining the organization's business entity)</div> <div>65000 · Operations (Expenses related to providing program services and maintaining operations)</div> <div>65020 · Postage, Mailing Service (Postage, parcel delivery, local courier, trucking, freight, outside mailing services)</div> <div>65030 · Printing and Copying (Printing, copying, duplicating, recording)</div> <div>65050 · Program Expense</div> <div>Total 65000 · Operations (Expenses related to providing program services and maintaining operations)</div> <div>Total Expense</div> <div>Net Ordinary Income</div> <div>Other Income/Expense</div> <div>Other Expense</div> <div>65199 · Void Unused Checks (Used to void unused checks)</div> <div>Total Other Expense</div> <div>Net Other Income</div> <div>Net Income</div> </div>	<div> <div>Jan 24</div> <div>Feb 24</div> <div>Mar 24</div> <div>Apr 24</div> <div>May 24</div> <div>TOTAL</div> </div> <div> <div>REDACTED</div> </div>
<div> <div>This Fiscal Year-to-date; acount=All Income &amp; Expense; Class=All</div> <div>Page 1</div> </div>	



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

2:00 PM  
06/07/24  
Accrual Basis

**Radio Club of Tacoma 2017 & Forward**  
**Class by Month-Column=Month&All Income & Expense-Row=Class**  
January through May 2024

	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24	Apr 24	May 24	TOTAL
ARRL Membership Forwarding (Pgm)						
Badge (Pgm)						
Bank Interest						
Banking Expense						
Business Registration						
Donations						
Donations - Other (Pgm)						
Salmon Run Donation (Pgm)						
Total Donations						
Dues (Membership)						
Education						
Youth Education (Pgm)						
CQNW 202401						
Youth Education (Pgm) - Other						
Total Youth Education (Pgm)						
Total Education						
Field Day (Pgm)						
FD Equipment & Supplies (Pgm)						
Total Field Day (Pgm)						
General Overhead						
HF Operating Station (Pgm)						
Insurance						
Interest						
IT						
Web Site						
Total IT						
Membership Management (Pgm)						
Open House (Pgm)						
OH Donations (Pgm)						
OH Expenses (Pgm)						
OH Host Donation (Pgm)						
Open House (Pgm) - Other						
Total Open House (Pgm)						
Other						
PMT (Pgm)						
Straight Key Night (Pgm)						
Taxes						
Utilities						
Internet Access						
Telephone						
Utilities - Tacoma						
Drinking Water						
Electricity						
Solid Waste & Recycling						
Surface Water						
Wastewater						
Total Utilities - Tacoma						
Total Utilities						
VHF-UHF Operating Station (Pgm)						
Unclassified						
TOTAL						

REDACTED

Accounts=All Income & Expense Accounts, Date=This Fiscal Year to Date, Class=All

Page 1



# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Radio Club of Tacoma  
General Meeting Minutes  
June 8th, 2024

Meeting called to order at \_\_\_\_\_1300\_\_\_\_\_.

## Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Red Crane field WB7EC

Flag Salute, Led by: Adam Barbera

Quorum 10% of membership required to conduct business. ☐ No ☐

## Welcome and Acknowledgement of New Members and Visitors (Please introduce yourselves)

Brendan Leiber NOBML. Representing the Eagles Arie.

## General Meeting (Dave W7UUU)

Dave says: Gents & Ladies - I think the June program should just be "getting used to the new meeting space". June 8<sup>th</sup>. Location: **Eagles South Tacoma, 7037 S. Pine Street Tacoma, WA.** Doors open at noon, meeting starts at 1:00PM and ends at 3:00PM. Leonard KA7NWF did introductions of the Eagles Staff to the assembled club members. Dave W7UUU also followed Leonard with some more details about the site. President Mike explained our old traditions including the "Field Day Pig" and the raffle system. He then went on to wish our missing member Nick K7MO a happy birthday, which was on the same day as our meeting!

## Silent Key or Illness?

Bob Hewlett N7NCP became SK on May 24, 2024. A card was sent to his wife Greta Hewlett. Mike and Joy Isakson visited Greta on Memorial Day. No funeral scheduled at this point.  
A card was sent to Dan Vacanti's family. His daughter was in the hospital, and she is going home soon because she is doing much better now.

New Business: None.

## Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

Not much to report this month. Almost nothing has come into the mailbox lately. We did have three new member applications



# GENERAL MEETING



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

which have been sent to Mike W7XH for processing and the British RAD-com magazine came in. We also have some bills for the treasurer, and the usual bank statements.

Some questions arose about the BOD meeting and special meeting minutes, which were sent out within days of the meetings. The secretary would like to ask folks who are interested in receiving these messages to let him know if nothing has been received in a timely manner, probably at least a week after the meeting.

Also, members should be aware that meeting minutes will always be published in the Logger's Bark every month after they have been approved for publication by the Board of Directors.

The secretary will be glad to send any missing messages to the individual who requested them.

## Treasurer's Report (Steve AF7YD)

Steve reports that all our funds have been moved from Chase to US Bank. He also reported on a possible variation on account balances that may be just a glitch in the matrix. Reports to come when Steve has straightened it all out. The reports have been added to the BOD report that is currently in distribution as of 06/16/2024.

## Committee Reports

### Facilities (Adam W2NCC)

Adam indicated that he wants to schedule work parties to clean up the clubhouse and yard. This will happen soon as his schedule allows. Adam also mentioned that there had been questions asked about the club restrooms being ADA complaint. Prez Mike mentioned our restrooms are ADA compliant as are our parking lots. He had checked the ADA requirements and actually measured the restroom facilities to ensure that they were compliant.

### Membership (Mike W7XH)

Mike reports we have 323 members. One of the new applications received was from a ham in Menlo Park CA, and another from Port Gamble WA.

New membership applications have been posted in the kitchen at the club house.

Mike is researching more hams in the neighborhood based on ARRL data.

Cards for May were sent to local hams. They were selected from a WWA ARRL list provided by Lynn Burlingame N7CFO.

June birthday cards have been mailed on 6-5-2024. Mike showed us a sample of the recruitment card that he is sending out to potential new members. A very nice card which welcomed the new folks and invited them to join us at the clubhouse. He also includes a link to the new Loggers Bark on our website.

### Library (Doug AD7AV)

No report.

### Training (Stephan AD7AB)





# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Class this weekend June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2024.

## VE (John AC7WW)

Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> your VE Team graded 15 exams. Three Technicians joined the Amateur Radio Service, two candidates passed element 2 and three to become General class operators, one candidate upgraded to Extra. Two candidates did not earn an initial license or an upgrade.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

Manny AD7MA, Rich KK7VH, Rob K7TGU, David K7FI, Stephen, AD7AB.

The next scheduled test session is Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## Info Tech and Website (Randy WB4SPB)

All systems are nominal.

## HF Operations (Phil K7PIA)

Everything in the HF room was reported as working well. They are being used every weekend by club members. Field Day is 22-23 June. At our usual site, Western State Hospital in Lakewood

There is new equipment still pending. We hope to have everything in the HF Room by Mid-July.

Phil also suggested that if anyone wants to get trained on the new equipment, that they just contact anyone on the HF team. HF team members, Mike W7MKE, Al N7OMS, Bob AD7LJ and Gary WG7X.

There were questions about error messages that occurred recently when some club members were trying to use the Mercury IIIs amp. The problem was that the amp was giving them "HI SWR" errors because the operators in question were not familiar with the correct sequence necessary to use the amp and the tuner together. The discussion continued with Gary, WG7X explaining that the new equipment was doing exactly what it was supposed to do: that being alerting the operator about an error and taking itself offline before any damage was done.

This was the real reason that the HF committee was so interested in getting newer equipment that has this ability to self-protect. It may be embarrassing to the operator, but it is a learning moment for them also to read the error and make changes to correct the error.

Mike, W7MKE discussed Flex specific parameters to remember when using the Flex and the Mercury amplifier. More discussion followed on general operation of both stations.

## Tower (Nick K7MO)

Adam W2NCC reports that the tower project will start again in August.

## Repeater Ops (AL N7OMS)

Sam N9MII reports that the Bates repeater is operational. It has already been in use with the ARES group(s).



# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

## Property Management (Red WB7EC)

Red discussed the raffle system previously mentioned by Leonard KA7NWF. Last actual raffle was in February 2020. N7PH PJ won the door prize. Red suggested that the raffles be started again in August of 2024. Red reports that the PMT made \$360 in May, with approximately \$200 dollars in sales at the SeaPac hamfest. These new funds will be reported at in the July report.

President Mike W7XTZ took this opportunity to reiterate that the PMT and Treasurer need assistance as has been mentioned many times before.

Red then mentioned that new donations have come in again and they will be processed and offered for sale when the processing is complete.

## Museum (Dan KD7SV)

Not too much to report, Warren NG7G carried the Thunderbolt amp up the stairs. The SX-101 works OK. HT-37 paired with the SX-101 needs some work. Dan will be working on this in future. The two boat anchors mentioned will be used in future. Dan will continue the triage in the garage on the rest of the donated boat anchors. Dan thanked Randy WB4SPB, Red WB7EC and Adam W2NCC for their help with the triage and equipment moving problems.

## Wednesday Workshop (Randy WB4SPB)

TBD

## Loggers Bark (Dave W7UUU)

Dave discussed the Loggers Bark secretary totally missed entering the Barkie into the agenda.

## Unfinished Business:

**Mike Drorbaugh** had continuing Field Day discussions.

Mike talked about our field day equipment test / setup meeting that went down Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup>. Most of the stuff we need is there and operational.

Dates to remember: June 9<sup>th</sup> at Dave W7UUU's house. Set up of rocket launchers will be covered during the live training at Dave's house. This event is by invitation only due to time and space constraints. Mike discussed this training in detail and talked about our plans for field day. In general, all of this has already been discussed in detail in the BOD minutes and at various meetings of the Field Day personnel.

Field Day is 22-23 June. At our usual site, Western State Hospital in Lakewood. Load up at 0900 at the clubhouse, set up at the FD site starts at 1100. FD starts at 1100 on Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup> and runs through Sunday to 1100. Tear down and pack up immediately after the event ends.

Mike went through the band managers' assignments that had been listed previously in the BOD meeting. Please refer to that report for details.





# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

## New Business?

Mike Drorbaugh discussed the Historic Tacoma members who visited our BOD meeting. Mike outlined the intent of their visit; details are in the BOD meeting minutes. The final decision to join or not will be discussed at the next BOD meeting.

Steve AF7YD discussed Bob Purdom's assignment as our ARRL section SM and his involvement with the local youth activities. Steve is in process of creating a "youth-oriented activities" net or communications places to discuss youth and ham radio. Steve has made some business cards for dissemination to the local hams for info on how to start the process and who to contact.

Dave discussed the point that the secretary totally missed entering the Loggers Bark discussion into the agenda... Dave mentioned that he appreciates the contributions to the publications that various people have sent in. Dave also mentioned photographic inputs and formats: horizontal is preferred and try to think about what you are photographing: no butts or backs!

Dave is still looking for a new program manager for our general meetings. Dave can help a new manager with points of contact and suggestions for programs.

Adam W2NCC mentioned the three main fund drivers. PMT, Salmon Run and Membership (dues). Just recently Adam has set up an account with a company called Benevity. This allows other folks to donate money to our club through their places of employment, Microsoft and Alaskan Airlines are two of the most recent companies that are already participating in this. More details in an upcoming Logger's Bark.

Mike W7MKE talked about one of our fellow clubs that will be holding a hamfest: Kitsap county Amateur club will be doing this Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a raffle, a flyer will be posted on the bulletin board at the clubhouse.

Adam W2NCC bought 3 Heathkit SB-200's two are in good shape, the other needs work. Adam is offering club members a chance to get their hands into the repair process...

Sam N9MII had an announcement about CQNW for an upcoming weekend with their campers where they are going to do a fox hunt. They will want to borrow some equipment from RCT for this. Becky KG7FZH elaborated on future activities with the Camp Quest Northwest (CQNW) folks. The first session will be over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at their camp in North Bend. Introduction to ham radio will be a part of their agenda during the event. They plan the ham radio events on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of July. Their next activity will be in Bow Washington in August at Camp Kirby. She also mentioned that they have instructional videos on ham radio, which are available on request. Contact Becky or Sam directly for these videos. Mike W7MKE asked Becky about their plans to have another event at our clubhouse. Beck replied in affirmative, details forthcoming. Beck and Steve AF7YD comments about Steve Goodgame, the ARRL training likes what the Radio Club of Tacoma has been doing and would like us to do the same for ARRL. Steve has details for those who need them.

John N7TES discussed POTA activities upcoming. One on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June at Dash Point and the other on July 21<sup>st</sup> at Lake Sammamish, WA.



# GENERAL MEETING

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W7DK

## Activity Reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements.

Kitsap county ARS is having their hamfest a flyer is posted on the bulletin board with details. October 19<sup>th</sup> is the date for this hamfest.

**Raffle prize won by:** Dave W7UUU; a nice old looking mantle clock from the W7DK archives of stuff...

**Adjournment at:** \_\_\_\_\_1430\_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X**





# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

**Attachments:** Attendance List.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

ATTENDANCE SHEET

General Meeting

June 8th, 2024

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	<b>ATTENDED at Eagles</b>	Only non BOD members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to ZOOM and at clubhouse.
1	Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF	2308
2	Walter Morey	WA7SDY	2763
3	Bob Heselberg	K7MXE	461
4	Diane Sim	W7SIM	2304
5	Dave Ellison	W7UUU	743
6	Mike Isakson	W7XH	2657
7	Cathi Korth	KG7RTQ	2789
8	Kathryn Antonetti	K7USR	2721
9	Brendon Leber	NOBML	Visitor
11	David Ashley	W7GEL	2987
12	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050
13	Phil Shideler	KC7PS	2853
14	Zac Eveland	KJ7FSV	3093
15	Becky Friedman	KG7FZH	2788
16	John Sherrill	N7TES	2733
	Via ZOOM		
1	George Lightner	KD7QBE	2076

